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12-PAGE SPORT SECTION

TRIUMPH FOR THE MARATHON RUNNERS,
AGONY FOR CHELSEA'S TITLE PRETENDERS

GARDENING OR BUST?

DEBORAH ROSS MEETS CHARLIE DIMMOCK

REVIEW FRONT

DAILY: BRITAIN'S BEST ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE WITH MORE LISTINGS THAN EVER BEFORE

Blair's despair over 'Titanic' feud between Brown and Mandelson

TONY BLAIR likened the bitter dispute between Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson to "Greek tragedy" and ordered them to stop their "Titanic" feud, according to a new biography of Mr Mandelson.

Mr Blair spoke of his own "despair" at the rift between his two closest political allies. His warning about its dangers came in a private letter to Mr Mandelson more than two years before the feud was blamed for the disclosure of his £37,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, which caused the former trade sec-

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

retary's resignation from the Cabinet. Mr Blair's dramatic 1996 letter was his reply to Mr Mandelson's offer to resign on

Labour's election campaign

manager after walking out of a meeting in which he clashed with Mr Brown, who was in overall charge of the party's strategy.

With the election less than a year away, Mr Blair warned Mr Mandelson that his team was in a "dangerous" plight and "simply cannot continue in this

way". He accused both him and Mr Brown of seeming "more desirous of victory over each other than of trying to make it work". Mr Blair went on: "We are not players in some Greek tragedy."

"We have one overriding responsibility to deliver an election victory, and, though it may seem pious, it is just not fair to all those people who really want such a victory and are working for it, to be casualties of some Titanic but ultimately irrelevant personality feud..." "Have you any conception of how despairing it is for me

EXTRADING TODAY

Mandelson:
The Biography
An exclusive
serialisation,
Review P8-9

when the two people that have been closest to me for more than a decade, and who in their different ways are the most brilliant minds of their generation, will not lay aside personal animosity and help me win?"

Replying to Mr Blair's letter,

Later Mr Blair described

this period as his worst moment

since becoming Labour leader.

Mr Blair did not accept that Mr Brown was to blame, telling Mr Mandelson it was "six of one and half a dozen of another".

The letter is revealed in Donald Macintyre's book, which also discloses that, according to one of his closest

members of staff, a despairing

Mr Blair would ask, sometimes several times a day: "Why, oh why, can't my two best people get on with each other?"

Mr Mandelson quoted Michael Wills, a Brown ally with whom he was also on good terms, as saying Mr Brown was "determined to kill me before I destroy him".

Mr Wills, now a government minister, told a friend that the two politicians were "like scorpions in a bottle; only one of them will crawl out alive".

The book says the Chancellor

Mr Brown had "argued that if they were both in agreement, Blair would always take their advice". During a reconciliation in January 1998, Mr Mandelson promised Mr Brown he would support him for the Labour leadership whenever Mr Blair stands down.

In January 1999 Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson had another reconciliation and have met several times this year, once to discuss the Labour Party's campaign for next month's elections to the Scottish Parliament, in which Mr Brown is playing a leading role.

Serb border mine slaughters family



Family and friends mourning over the coffin of Nushmije Berisha, killed when the car she was in hit a landmine on the border at Morini

Anja Niedringhaus

ON ORTHODOX Good Friday, we watched Yugoslav border guards drilling holes in the tarmac leading from Serbia to Albania, and slotting in anti-tank mines, leaving perhaps half a lane and a muddy verge clear for the constant, dreadful, despairing stream of refugee traffic. Yesterday, we saw the hideous results of their workmanship.

At 2.40am, Ibush Berisha drove the family's white car

BY EMMA DALY
in Morini, Albania

across the border and over a mine. There was an explosion that threw the car in the air, killing his wife and three of his children instantly and critically, wounding his mother and middle son. Relatives travelling in a tractor trailer behind the car watched in horror, then attempted to rescue the victims.

"The moment the mine ex-

ploded the children and their mother were thrown far away," said Ibush, who was exhausted from his journey and in shock at its horrific end.

"The people still in the car were badly injured, having difficulty breathing and I tried to give them heart massage. The others were scattered around, one on this side, one on the other side, 10 metres or 15 metres away from the car. I don't know where my boy is."

Back at the border, Mustafa Berisha, his brother, waited for news of the family's death. We said that Besnik, 11, had been rushed to an Italian Red Cross field hospital 12 miles away with facial injuries. It later emerged he also had severe trauma to his head.

"He is alive!" Mustafa asked, starting to weep. We did not know, but we drove him to the camp, where Italian doctors told us that Besnik – until

then known only as "Unidentified Patient, aged about 14" – had been evacuated by helicopter to Tirana. The prognosis was not good.

Ibush's mother, Nasmije, died in an ambulance on the way to Kukes hospital, her son, at her side.

He had already lost his wife Hajrie, 34, his only daughter Lavdie, 15 – her name means glory in Albanian – his eldest son Flamur, 13, who was hand-

icapped, and his son, Dritan, 10. "I didn't see the moment the car exploded, I just heard the noise," said Mustafa, who was in the trailer.

He was left yesterday trying to recover the bodies of his nephews and niece – the Serbs, not content with killing the family, were refusing to let the survivors recover the children's corpses.

"My daughter and two sons

TURN TO PAGE 3

Loner suspected of 'crude' Brixton bomb

A LONE bomber or a small group of activists were last night thought to be the most likely suspects behind the nail-bomb explosion in Brixton, south-west London, which injured 39 people, four of them seriously.

Police had ruled out the involvement of Irish terrorists and there was nothing to implicate animal-rights campaigners or anti-Nato demonstrators. No

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
one had claimed responsibility for the bomb which exploded in Electric Avenue at 5.30pm on Saturday, and for which no warning was given.

There was, however, growing speculation that the street market where the bomb exploded may not have been the target. Witnesses said the device – con-

tained in a sports holdall – had first been seen at a bus stop. Yesterday, forensic science experts from the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch were sifting through debris for clues. All they had established was that the bomb did not contain high explosives, suggesting it was genuinely "home made".

Last night, 14 people remained in hospital being treat-

ed for injuries caused by flying nails or debris. A 22-month-old boy underwent emergency surgery to have a 10cm nail removed from his skull. Great Ormond Street Hospital was optimistic that he would suffer no permanent brain damage. Doctors at King's College Hospital were trying to save the sight of two men hit by debris.

Police were last night study-

ing closed-circuit television footage from the scene to try to identify who left the holdall at the bus stop or the market. They refused to say if they had identified anyone. "There were a lot of people around," said Commander John Coles, of Brixton police. "Whoever left a bomb there has to have realised they were going to hurt people."

Jack Straw, the Home Sec-

retary, described the incident as "an outrageous and mindless act" and it was also condemned by the Tory home affairs spokesman, Sir Norman Fowler.

The mood in Brixton yesterday was of disbelief. "It's madness," said one woman surveying the scene. "Why do they have to do this to all the good people?"

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

A deadly crop of mines is sown in Kosovo

WEAPONS OF POWER

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE FIVE Albanians who died yesterday when their car hit a landmine are unlikely to be the last to lose their lives in this way. In recent weeks, Yugoslav soldiers in Kosovo have been planting mines on the Serb side of the Albanian border, apparently in response to a potential assault by Nato ground troops.

Yesterday's deaths were the civilian "collateral" of what is intended primarily as a military defence. Crucially, however, there are an increasing number of reports that Serb forces are deliberately planting mines in civilian areas - to intimidate the Albanian population, forcing them to flee or making it impossible for them to return.

Anti-personnel mines have been placed in fields, schools, and houses. According to some reports, Albanians themselves are being used as forced mine-layers in parts of Kosovo.

Nato's force in Macedonia includes bomb-disposal engineers who are ready to deal with the mines in the event of a peace agreement. But that seems a long way off. Even if any peace deal were to be struck, experience suggests that it can take many years before all the mines are made safe. Children especially are vulnerable, treading on or picking up unusual objects while playing in woods or fields.

The use of anti-personnel

mines has been condemned worldwide. A high-profile campaign against them succeeded in achieving the apparently unachievable. The internationally best-known figure in this campaign was Diana, Princess of Wales, famously photographed stepping through an Angolan minefield. Jody Williams, one of the co-ordinators of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for this campaign against all the odds - "a new way of moving humanitarian mountains", as it was described.

More than 130 countries last month finally signed up for the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines. The United States found itself in the company of Russia, China and North Korea resisting the treaty to the bitter end. Yugoslavia signed the accord. But, following an increasingly familiar pattern in Belgrade, the promises soon proved to be worth rather less than the paper they were written on.

Serbs began laying mines in Kosovo even as their officials signed up for the Ottawa treaty. Anti-tank mines are not outlawed, but the Serbs also use anti-personnel mines, which include tiny devices just a few inches across that can kill or maim an individual, and more powerful mines which can kill a number of people at once.

Theoretically, even these anti-personnel mines can serve a military purpose. In practice, their main advantage is simply that they are very cheap. Their inconspicuousness means that civilians are those who suffer most - either while still living in the conflict zone or after returning home.

The Serb use of landmines is part of a much larger pattern of defiance. Recent examples have included the "ethnic cleansing" and killing which moved on to such a huge scale when the Nato bombing raids began. And yesterday, Nato claimed to have images of 43 mass grave sites in Kosovo, some dug by gangs of Kosovo Albanians dressed in red jackets - to make it difficult for them to escape - who were compelled by Serb forces to bury their countrymen.

"There have been numerous refugee reports of Serb police assembling Kosovo Albanians into grave-digging chain gangs," said Brigadier General

Giuseppe Marani, the Nato military spokesman.

Mass rape, repeatedly used as a weapon of power and hate in Bosnia, has come into play in Kosovo, too. But most Serbs are ready to deny that their compatriots have committed ugly crimes. At best, there is a weary acknowledgement that "terrible things can happen on all sides, in wartime".

As in Nazi Germany, however, the apparent loss of a moral compass does not indicate a complete obliviousness to what the rest of the world can regard as crimes against humanity. Just as the Germans were eager to destroy all traces of Auschwitz before the Allies arrived, so the Serbs seek ways of airbrushing the crimes out of existence. For both technological and human reasons - including satellite cameras and the testimony of refugees - this is proving to be even more difficult for most Serbs. It will be a painful confrontation, when it comes.

As in wartime Germany, the

professions of ignorance and denial are sometimes contradicted by Serbs. As every German history book now emphasises, it was impossible for ordinary Germans not to be aware that horrific things were happening to the Jews. A similar logic applies in Serbia today.

In one conversation in a hotel in the provincial town of Nis, a Serb assured me confidently that reports of horrors in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica - where thousands were led away and killed by Serb forces in 1995 - were invented. He disagreed, and tried to put forward some proofs. He continued to disagree. Several hours and several drinks later, he suddenly announced: "Of course we know what really happened in Srebrenica. Everybody knows."

That confrontation with the truth - on mines, on ethnic cleansing, on slave labour, on rape - still lies ahead, for most Serbs. It will be a painful confrontation, when it comes.

CONVENTIONS BEING VIOLATED

- IF ACCOUNTS of Serb atrocities are accurate, Yugoslav officials and commanders could be prosecuted by The Hague war-crimes tribunal. The basis of humanitarian law is the four Geneva Conventions and the treaty banning land-mines.
- 130 countries, including Yugoslavia, last month signed the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines. Anti-tank mines are not outlawed but the Serbs are laying mines in the path of fleeing civilians.
- Destruction of farms. "It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops [and]
- Rape and indecent assault. "Women shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected in particular against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault." Article 86
- Parading of captives on TV. Article 75 prohibits "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment".
- Livestock". Article 54
- Bombardment of villages.
- The parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and ... direct their operations only against military objectives." Article 51
- Attacks on civilians. "Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited." Article 51
- Responsibility. "The fact that a breach of the Conventions of this Protocol was committed by a subordinate does not absolve his superiors from penal or disciplinary responsibility". Article 86

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY



The wreckage of the car blown up by a landmine yesterday at the Yugoslav-Albanian border in Mitrina, killing five Kosovar Albanian refugees

Anja Niedringhaus

'He returned to demand the children's bodies'

FROM FRONT PAGE
have been left on the other side of the border," said Ibush. "We carried the first three out, but when we went back to take the others, the Serbian police forbade us to do so on the pretext that the area was mined."

Hajrie's mutilated body lay in a medical tent at the border yesterday, covered in a grey blanket.

Since the Albanian border police could not, or would not help, Mustafa courageously walked back, against the flow of terrified, exhausted refugees, to the Serbian side to demand the return of the children's bodies.

We watched him walk alone, fearful yet hopeful that the Serbs would do the right thing. But when he returned a few minutes later, he brought a grim message: there was really only one body left - the others were in pieces, as Ibush feared - and it had been taken to the morgue in Prizren. Mustafa could collect it - if he could find a car to take him back.

By then, however, he was too frightened to return 20km into Serbian territory. Instead he waited in the rain for an ambulance to collect Hajrie's body.



A Kosovar in mourning for the Berisha family

ly, and said: "Why did you drive over the mine? You must go now and you are lucky, because it could have been worse."

The answer comes from Ibush. "There was no warning on the road to tell us this zone was mined, and no one said this to us," he explained.

The Berishas' story is not so different from those of thousands of compatriots murdered, brutalised, humiliated and expelled by President Slobodan Milosevic's forces. "We left on Friday at 6pm. An hour before the Serbs came with guns and ordered us to leave," Mustafa explained.

Hitting the mine, that added tragedy, is all that distinguishes them from the 296,456 other Kosovars who have crossed the Morini border post in the past three weeks.

All we can hope is that one day the Serbian people, in whose names these many crimes are being committed, will understand and accept the evil done by Mr Milosevic. And that the people of Kosovo will somehow see justice and their right to live in peace in their own land, prevail over tyranny.

But, of course, it will all come too late for the Berisha family.

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Readers giving generously

THE INDEPENDENT KOSOVO APPEAL



READERS OF *The Independent* have donated more than £50,000 to help refugees driven from their homes in Kosovo.

Against a backdrop of further expulsions by the Serb militias, money is continuing to pour in to provide food, clothes and medicine.

Well over 500,000 Kosovar Albanians have been forced out of their homes or have fled to avoid violence and killing. They arrive at the borders with Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and

Montenegro tired, exhausted and terrified. They also have only the most meagre of possessions and usually just the clothes they are wearing.

The appeal launched by *The Independent* is one of several co-ordinated by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). So far, £15m has been raised.

Last week the DEC urged readers to keep sending what they can: "The efforts of your readers have been fantastic, but now is no time to give up."

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

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BRIXTON BOMBING

Shoppers cut down in hail of nails and broken glass

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ALL THAT Wayne Pegasus wanted were yams and bananas in the street market on Electric Avenue in Brixton, south-west London. But that early evening shopping trip will haunt him for life.

"I was just talking to a friend and all of a sudden I heard a great bang," he said from his bed in King's College Hospital. "When I looked down at my hand my finger had disappeared. I thought it was magic."

"I could not believe it had happened. When I looked again I realised it was not magic and that it had happened. My finger was just hanging there - it was shredded."

The remains of the little finger of his left hand have been amputated.

Mr Pegasus, 55, a father of six from Peckham, south London, was knocked to the ground when the nail bomb exploded in the crowded market on Saturday. Apart from the hand injury, he suffered a number of other wounds, including one to his back. He had been standing just 20ft from where the bomb exploded.

"I saw people lying around on the ground screaming and bleeding," he said. "It was chaos. I was so shocked, especially when I saw my hand."

"That split second ... I was bleeding all over my body. I felt a lot of pain. My finger was just like mincemeat."

"I feel disgusted about this thing. How could they do such a thing like this? I cannot use words to describe these people. You cannot explain why they would do such a thing."

Police say the bomb appeared designed to inflict injuries to people rather than damage to property. If that was its aim, it was successful.

"Fourteen victims are still in hospital with injuries from flying debris - mostly nails and broken glass.

"Four casualties are in seri-

ous condition. Two men, one aged 51, the other 62, suffered eye injuries that could result in blindness. "At this stage it is still too early to say," said Nick Samuels, a spokesman for King's College Hospital.

The other two seriously injured victims have head and spinal injuries.

A total of 39 people were injured in Saturday's explosion. Thirty were taken to hospital by ambulance and the other nine

made their own way there. Hospital officials said people were also treated for trauma.

Many of the staff at the hospital, which is less than a mile from the site of the blast, were also shocked. "People shop there, some of us live in the area," said Mr Samuels.

Sister Karen Swinson, who was in charge of the hospital's accident and emergency unit, said: "We removed nails from faces, heads, legs and arms.

There were pieces of glass and some very nasty injuries.

Three operating theatres worked through the night - some under the supervision of Professor Charles Polkey, the neurologist who treated Josie Russell, the young girl who suffered grievous head injuries in a hammer attack in rural Kent that killed her mother and sister.

In the worst cases, patients with multiple injuries were

treated by a number of specialist teams including neurological, maxillo-facial, spinal and eye experts.

Off-duty staff, including people on maternity leave, came in to the hospital to help.

At Great Ormond Street Hospital, a 23-month-old boy underwent surgery to remove a nail embedded in his brain.

The nail - about 10cm long - had penetrated 2cm into his brain and was removed during

a 90-minute operation. "We are now carrying out tests to try and find out if there has been any permanent damage," said a hospital spokeswoman. "But he ate breakfast this morning and he seems to be well."

The procedure, carried out by the neurosurgeon Dr John Wadley, is known as a craniotomy and involves making a small hole in the skull to remove the nail.

"The doctors are hopeful

HORROR OF THE NAIL BOMB

THOUGH THE nail bomb has been used fairly regularly by terrorist groups and individuals overseas, cases on the British mainland have been rare.

A vicious device, designed to inflict maximum personal injury rather than damage to property, it is at its most potent against crowds. Britain's worst atrocity remains the IRA's attack on the Household Cavalry in London's Hyde Park, which left four soldiers and seven horses dead. The bomb, containing 25lb (11kg) of gelignite surrounded by four- and six-inch nails and hidden in a car, was detonated by remote control as a squad of 16 rode past on 20 July, 1982. Two hours later an explosion at a Regent's Park bandstand killed seven more soldiers.

Three years ago, at the Atlanta Olympics, a nail device killed one woman, wounded 110 others and caused the fatal heart attack of a television cameraman.

Paris has been hit by repeated nail-bombings. In December 1996, two people died and 80 were injured when a device went off on a train. Two similar devices injured a total of 30 people in 1995. Islamic extremist groups were blamed for the French attacks.

PA

that the child will make a full and complete recovery but obviously it is early stages," added the spokeswoman.

Police confirmed yesterday that four police officers taken to hospital had been discharged.

Two were treated at King's College Hospital, one for shock and one for cuts, and two were taken to St Thomas's, near Waterloo station. One had a knee injury and the other was suffering from shock.

Toddler brain surgery success

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A LITTLE boy aged 23 months was recovering in hospital today after complex surgery to remove a four-inch nail embedded in his head by the bomb blast.

The boy was said to be lucky to be alive after two centimetres (just less than an inch) of the nail lodged in his brain.

Surgeons at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital took 90 minutes to extricate the nail early yesterday in a procedure known as a craniotomy.

They had to repair and replace essential bone protecting the boy's brain, where the nail punctured the skin.

The surgeons had first removed tiny layers of skin, muscle and membrane from the head and made a series of small holes in the skull.

Then they sawed between the holes and lifted back a small amount of bone like a lid, revealing first the membrane lining of the brain (known as the dura) then the brain itself.

Last night the boy was "happy and contented and wondering what all the fuss was about," said a hospital spokeswoman.

The neurosurgery was overseen by leading consultant Dominic Thompson - who said he did not expect any complications.

The spokeswoman added: "The nail entered the left frontal region of the boy's brain and caused superficial injuries to the brain. But it didn't affect any of his central brain."

"There was also no major damage to any of his vessels. It was not a complex operation in neurosurgery terms, but it was still brain surgery."

She added: "They expect him to make a full recovery. We are keeping him under very close observation on the ward for the next few days."

The boy, who has not been named, had been transferred from St Thomas's Hospital to the neurosurgery ward at Great Ormond Street for a brain scan.

His mother and father are at his bedside.



Police clearing and sifting debris from the nail-bomb blast in the crowded street market that left 39 people injured



Wayne Pegasus recovering after surgery at King's College Hospital

Crazy loner with racist motive is suspected

BY PAUL LASHMAR AND IAN BURRELL

Mr Gable was himself the target of letter-bomb attack by right-wingers nearly five years ago. The device was sent to his home but he became suspicious of the package and called in the bomb squad who defused it.

In 1995, Combat 18 - which gets its name from the initials of Adolf Hitler - were behind a plot to send parcel bombs to sports stars in mixed-race relationships. A key figure in the British terrorist group ordered Danish neo-Nazis to post bombs to figures, including swimmer Sharon Davies and boxers Frank Bruno and Kriss Akabusi. Three Danes were later jailed for the plot.

Neither would the Brixton bomb be the first time the extreme right have manufactured a nail bomb. The British National Party leader, Anthony Lecomber, was jailed for manufacturing a nail bomb. In 1985 he was on his way to plant the device outside the left-wing Workers Revolutionary Party headquarters in Clapham, south London, when it went off prematurely.

It certainly would not be hard for a single fanatic to make a nail bomb. Instructions for bomb-making have appeared in anarchist and survivalist manuals and on the Internet.

The Nebraska-based International socialist organisation of Gary Leuck was suspected in the mid-Nineties of mailing out a computer disc called "Endsieg" (Final Victory) to sympathisers which contained bomb-making instructions.

The Home Office minister Kate Hoey moved to play down the idea of a race motive in this weekend's attack. Ms Hoey, whose Vauxhall constituency is near the scene of the bombing, said: "I would not want to rule anything out but I would be very



One of the wounded limping away after the nail bomb explosion in Brixton on Saturday Peter Macdiarmid



The site of the blast in Electric Avenue

'Someone looked at it and said: It's ticking'

BY WARWICK MANSILL AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

surprised if there is any kind of racist motive in it."

Scotland Yard has already ruled out the involvement of Northern Ireland paramilitary groups. Commander Hugh Orde, Metropolitan Police head of crime for south-west London, said he was otherwise looking at "all avenues".

The Brixton bombing also occurred in the same week that the Mardi Gras blackmailers, Edward Pierce, 15, and his set of explosive devices at supermarkets and shopping precincts across London, was jailed for 21 years.

But James Wylie, an international security expert at the University of Aberdeen, said the bomber was almost certain to have had a political motive and the most likely explanation was that the attack was linked to the Nato action in the Balkans. He said: "The nature of Serbian resistance is such that sooner or later, there will be signs of Serbian discontent running right through Europe the same as we have seen with the Palestinians."

Some observers believe that the crude device was the work of a lone bomber with a grudge. The Home Office minister Kate Hoey moved to play down the idea of a race motive in this weekend's attack. Ms Hoey, whose Vauxhall constituency is near the scene of the bombing, said: "I would not want to rule anything out but I would be very

surprised if there is any kind of racist motive in it."

Matthew Williams was jailed for attempting to use a nail bomb to bring carnage to a Liverpool shopping street simply because he "hated people".

The bag is noticed by traders, busy selling fruit and vegetables from the stalls.

"What it was doing there, I don't know," said stallholder Mark Murphy. "Someone said there was a bomb in there. I didn't look myself."

5.20pm: The bag is picked up by Gary Shilling, 15, who moves it from outside Boots and places it on a pallet next to the Iceland supermarket, at the junction of Electric Avenue and Brixton Road. Someone shouts at the teenager and he runs off. Word starts to circulate that the bag contains a bomb. No one really believes it. People take it in turns to have a

look and give it a poke with their fingers.

5.21pm: Stallholders watch in amazement as a "crackhead" opens the bag and takes out what appears to be a upperware container, taped to a cardboard box with wires protruding - and then makes off with the bag.

"Everyone was saying to him, 'There's a bomb in there, leave it alone,' but he just wanted the bag which was brand new," said stallholder Lee Walden.

"He picked out the bomb, which was a lunch box sitting on top of a cardboard box, put it on the pallets then walked off muttering about being a nice bag," Mr Murphy added. "Everyone was laughing. [They only became serious] when someone looked at it and said, 'It's ticking'."

Soon someone calls the security guard from Iceland

who examines the bomb and calls his manager Paul Mascall. It is understood Mr Mascall called the police, who then made the call at 5.26pm: Mr Mascall was later injured in the blast and taken to King's College Hospital.

5.28pm: While the officers are evacuating people the bomb explodes, sending nails and glass flying. "One officer said to me, 'So where is it?'" said Mr Walden. "I pointed, then it went off as I was talking. It blew me off my feet. I got up and started running with hands over my ears."

5.35pm: More emergency services arrive, including 13 fire engines, 20 ambulances and a police helicopter.

Rumours reach police of a second device at nearby Mothercare. It proves false.

The boy, who has not been named, had been transferred from St Thomas's Hospital to the neurosurgery ward at Great Ormond Street for a brain scan.

His mother and father are at his bedside.

John

HORROR
OF THE
NAIL BOMB

THE nail bomb has been used fairly regularly by terrorist groups and individuals. There are cases on the books that have been handled by the British government. One of the worst known is the 1982 bombing of the Household Cavalry in London's Hyde Park, which left four soldiers and seven horses dead. The bomb, containing 250g (11oz) of C4 explosive surrounded by a metal canister, was detonated by a timer. A squad of 16 police officers on 20 July, 1982, two hours later, had to search at a Regent's Park bus stop and killed three more soldiers. Three years ago, at the Atlanta Olympics, a nail bomb killed one woman, injured 110 others and caused the fatal heart attack of a television cameraman. Paris has been hit by repeated nail-bombing. In December 1996, one died and 60 were injured when a device exploded on a train. Two days earlier, a bomb injured a total of 50 people in Paris. It is an extreme tactic that is aimed for maximum damage.



The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical 'Whistle Down the Wind' at the Aldwych Theatre in London last July

Lloyd Webber in £50m buyout of Polygram stake

BY ANDREW VERITY
AND PAUL McCANN

THE COMPOSER Andrew Lloyd Webber has spent £50m to settle his long-running dispute with the record company that last year sabotaged a hit single.

Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer of *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*, is to buy the 30 per cent stake in his Really Useful theatre and music company which was owned by Polygram, for £75m (£48m). The move gives him 100 per cent control of the copyright to his work for the first time.

Last December Lord Lloyd-Webber accused Polygram of manipulating the charts after it cut by one penny the price of the Boyzone single 'No Matter What', taken from his musical *Whistle Down the Wind*. The cut, to £1.79, after a long run at number one, put the single below the threshold for further inclusion in the charts, thus making way for another Boyzone single.

The deal values Lord Lloyd-Webber's group at more than £150m, and comes in the week that his great West End rival, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, increased his prestige by buying two London theatres.

Last year Polygram was taken over by the drinks giant Seagram and absorbed into Universal. Seagram's entertainment arm, Lord Lloyd-Webber had long

wanted to buy the stake, but the old Polygram board had refused to sell.

Universal will retain the rights to publish and promote the composer's back-catalogue of music and records, but will relinquish any stake in the copyrights.

Lord Lloyd-Webber said:

"This will make the Really Useful Group unique in the theatre business as both copyright-holder and producer of its own shows and music and the company will go forward as a truly independent home for writers, musicians and creative artists."

The organisation was founded in 1979 as a vehicle for staging Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals and holding the copyrights. It diversified into video and TV programming. In the 1980s, when his fame was at its height, the composer took the group public. However, the City never really took to the company, and he took the firm private again. After losses in 1997, the company returned to profit in 1998, helped by a three-million selling video of *Cats*. Pre-tax profits were £12.5m.

The next production is expected to be a video of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the first Lloyd Webber musical, dating from 1968.

Toddler brain surgery success

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

AMAZINGLY, a 15-month-old child has had a brain operation to remove a tumour and is now walking and talking again.

Lord Lloyd-Webber had long

Holiday insurance. Up to half off.



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Church to sell £31m 'unethical' shares

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

THE CHURCH of England confirmed yesterday that it is to sell £31m of shares in GEC to avoid attacks from critics who say church funds should not be invested in firms which have links to arms manufacturing.

Church Commissioners, who insist that the disinvestment is an ethical rather than a business decision, said they plan to sell the shares after British Aerospace takes over the company's defence division, Marconi Electric Systems, later this year.

The Church has 5.5 million shares in GEC, worth £31m at today's prices. Under the terms of the takeover, announced earlier this year, the church stands to get 0.42 BAe shares for every GEC share it holds. In effect, the church would end up holding 3.3 million shares in BAe, which manufactures the Tornado and Harrier aircraft, both currently being used in the Nato bombardment of Kosovo.

generally support companies

that make commercial decisions on a wider criteria."

The Church of England's investments are handled by the Church Commissioners and are worth a total of £3.6bn.

Mr Beaver said that investment decisions were made on two criteria: ethics and returns, and the sale of the GEC shares was ethical.

"It will be done over a course of time when the share prices are right," he said.

The news of the share sell-off is likely to anger BAe directors but it is not known whether the decision will affect share prices.

This will be the first time that the Church has disinvested from an arms manufacturer but it has been criticised in the past for its financial relations with such companies.

Two years ago, it emerged

that Lockheed Martin, which

produces stealth bombers, Tri-

dent submarines and armour-piercing explosive darts, had paid £15,000 to use a concert held at St Paul's Cathedral to provide corporate hospitality for defence contractors.

The deal to sponsor the concert, which was held as part of the cathedral's tercentenary celebrations, was struck by Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, a Portsmouth-based subsidiary, and the concert was used to entertain defence contractors, such as BAe, GEC and Racal. But a spokesman for the cathedral said it needed sponsorship and had been delighted to receive it.

Research carried out by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, which was released in 1995, showed that around 90 churches and parishes, and a number of other Christian organisations, had held millions of pounds worth of shares in companies making arms or defence equipment.

test drive your IQ

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN TEN MINUTES TO ANSWER, BUT THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT. YOU MAY USE A PENCIL TO WORK OUT YOUR ANSWERS. start now.

1 FIND THE MISSING NUMBER.

WOLF is to FLOW as
8526 is to...?



a. QDRO b. OOTB c. HWLEE d. EERT

3 FIND THE MISSING ONE.



a. b. c. d. e.

4 WHICH OF THESE IS THE DESIGNER'S?

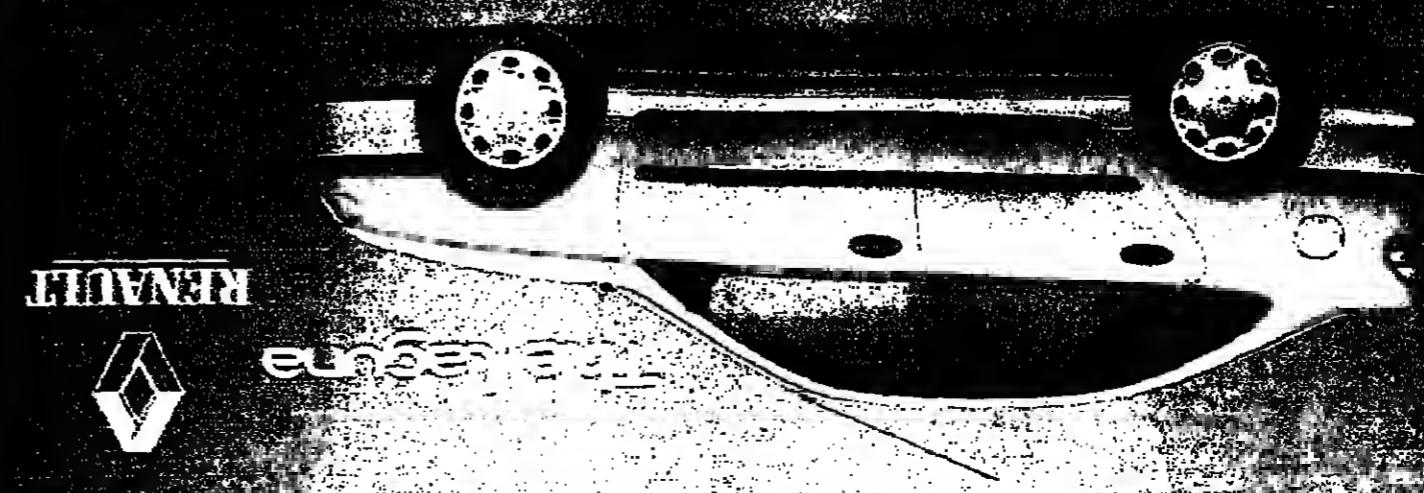
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7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT COULD MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?



Answers:
it happens to be mind
Question is true

FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PAGE 10

VOTING FOR A NEW BRITAIN

Nothing less than a united kingdom at stake in Scottish and Welsh polls

WHEN THE Scottish people voted in the 1997 referendum by a margin of three to one to set up the first Scottish Parliament for almost 300 years, Tony Blair hoped that he had satisfied the Scots' thirst for self-government.

Within months, however, a nightmare scenario had begun to appear on Downing Street's radar screen. Far from killing off the Scottish National Party's demands for independence, had the Government merely played into its hands by allowing the separatist genie to come out of the bottle?

Mr Blair, never a passionate advocate of devolution, wondered whether he had made a catastrophic error that could lead to the break up of the United Kingdom.

The answer will become clearer on 6 May, when the first elections to the new Parliament in Edinburgh take place. Although Labour's nerves have steadied since last year's Scottish National Party (SNP) opinion poll advance, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of the UK is at stake. This is why the elections to the Scottish and Welsh assemblies matter to people in England, too.

Even if, as the opinion polls suggest, Labour emerges as the largest party in the Scottish Parliament, the SNP can expect to form a sizeable opposition with a powerful platform from which to pursue its aims.

Plenty of Labour MPs privately share the view of Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, that it is now only a matter of "when" rather than "if" Scotland votes for independence in the SNP's long-promised referendum.

Whatever the results next month, the elections in Scotland and Wales will have far-reaching consequences for British politics. Ministers believe the creation of the new assemblies will sooner or later fuel demands for elected assemblies in England.

A strong showing for the SNP, and the prospect of a breakaway, might well harm the career prospects of the six Scots in the Cabinet, and dash Gordon Brown's hopes of succeeding Mr Blair as Prime Minister.

Mr Salmond describes himself as "Gordon Brown's nemesis" and it is no wonder the Chancellor is calling the shots in Labour's campaign: he has installed key aides in Scotland and when he is stuck in London, he holds a telephone conference call every morning with the party's campaign headquarters.

The heated debate in Scotland over tax, with the SNP proposing to reject Mr Brown's 1p cut in the basic rate next year, will tell us whether the Scots are prepared to put their money where their mouths are to preserve public services. The Scottish poll will also provide an insight into public opinion on the Kosovo crisis. So far Mr Salmond's condemnation of Nato's strategy appears to have backfired, but events in the Balkans could yet change that.

The elections will be the first in Britain fought under proportional representation (PR). Whether the voters like the system could help determine whether it is introduced for the House of Commons. First, though, they will have to understand it. "It must be the craziest system in the world," one Downing Street aide moaned last week.

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

People in Scotland and Wales will have two votes – one for a candidate in their Westminster parliamentary constituency, and one on a party list in their region. There is nothing to stop people casting their two votes for different parties, and surveys have suggested one in three may do so – which should boost the nationalists.

The Scottish Parliament will have 122 members, 73 representing individual constituencies, elected under the first-past-the-post system, and 56 from party lists in Scotland's eight regions under a proportional "topping up" process.

Opinion polls since the campaign began two weeks ago have shown a Labour advance and an SNP decline, raising Labour's hopes of winning an overall majority. But this looks unlikely, although Labour holds 56 of the 72 Scottish seats at Westminster; it has never won more than 50 per cent of the votes in a general election. So the most likely outcome is a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition.

Wales will use the same method of voting: the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff will have 60 members, 40 elected in each of the principality's Westminster seats by first-past-the-post and 20 from the five regions in Wales under the "topping up" process.

The byzantine nature of the system is best illustrated in Wales, where it could deprive Alun Michael, the Secretary of State for Wales and Mr Blair's candidate to become First Secretary, of a seat, because he is standing for a "top-up" seat rather than a constituency.

Perversely, if Labour does well in the constituencies in Mid and West Wales, Mr Michael may not win. Labour's polling experts put Mr Michael's chances at no better than 60-40. If he loses, Mr Blair will suffer the embarrassment of having to endorse Rhodri Morgan, the independent-minded MP for Cardiff West whom he moved heaven and earth to block, as the Assembly's Labour leader.

But Labour's prospects in Wales are better than in Scotland. The party should win an overall majority and would do so if it repeated its performance at the last two general elections (even though it failed to land a majority of the votes cast in 1992).

Allowing people to have two votes might help Plaid Cymru to push the Tories into third place in the Assembly. In contrast to their sister party in Scotland, the Welsh nationalists do not advocate independence from the UK.

The battle for Wales is also different because the Assembly in Cardiff will enjoy much less power than the law-making Scottish Parliament. It will be limited to detailed "secondary legislation" – fine with that already passed by London. Although there is less demand for devolution in Wales than Scotland, the nationalists hope the "glorified talking shop" being opened this year will prove a stepping stone to a Scottish-style parliament with real clout.

THE

SCOTLAND: KEY ISSUES



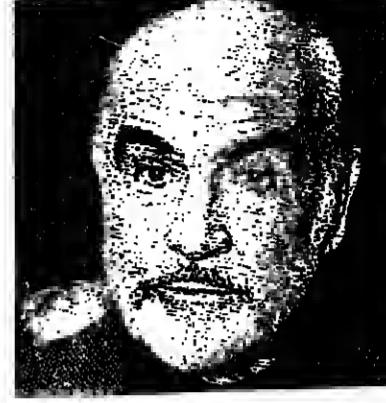
Should the Scottish Parliament be a "bridge" to independence; whether to use new powers to vary income tax by up to 3p in the £; sense of nationhood; can coalition government work; knock-on effects for England; will minority parties, particularly hard left and the Greens, benefit from new PR-style voting system?; party leaderships, particularly SNP's Alex Salmond for "unpardonable folly" remarks about bombing Serbia.

THE BATTLEGROUNDS

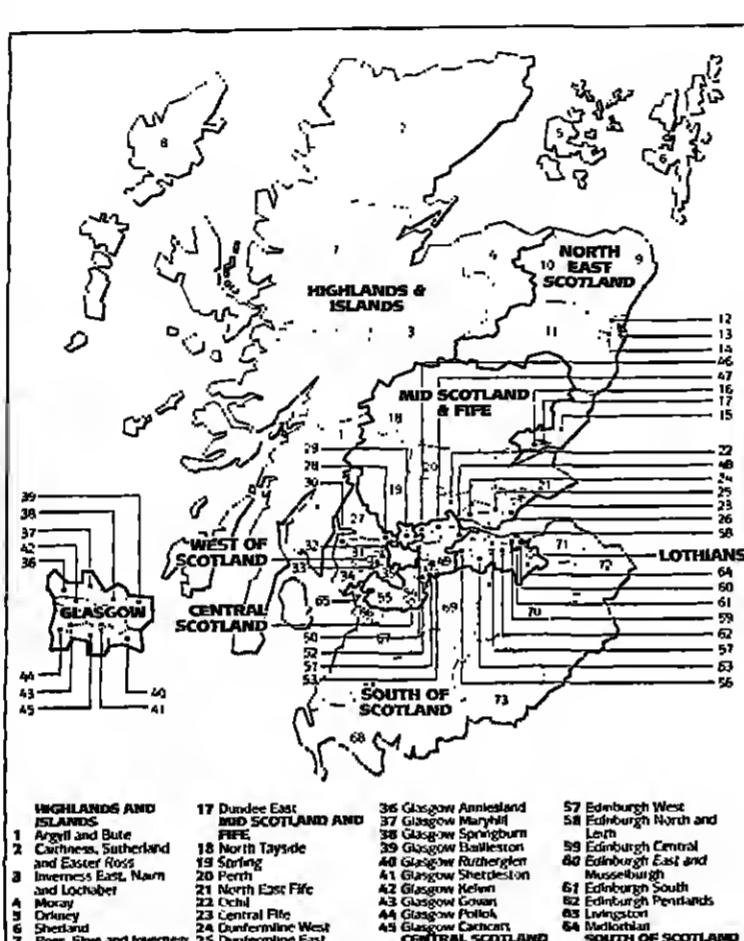


Linlithgow. marginal seat held by maverick MP Tam Dalyell; **Glasgow Govan.** shipyard closure could hit Labour; **Ross, Skye and Inverness West.** Charles Kennedy must deliver to help his Liberal Democrat leadership bid; **Falkirk West.** renegade Labour MP Dennis Canavan standing as Independent; **Edinburgh South.** former SNP MP Margo MacDonald (above), thrown in Alex Salmond's side, likely to win seat; **Perth.** Tory revival could harm SNP MP Roseanna Cunningham.

THE CAMPAINERS



Donald Dewar. Labour Secretary of State for Scotland; **Alex Salmond.** garrulous SNP leader; **Tommy Sheridan.** poll-tax convict, leader Scottish Socialist Party; **Sean Connery.** SNP supporter and actor (right); **Domhnall Macrao.** former member of Runrig folk/rock group; **Lorraine Macrae.** standing for new Highlands and Islands Alliance; **EastEnders' Ross Kemp.** swapping Albert Square for Sauchiehall Street; **Alex Ferguson.** if Manchester United start losing.



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Ulster talks may be put off until autumn

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assembly,
who has
insisted
on decommissioning
before allowing
Mr Adams to sit
in a new assembly executive,
opposed delaying the process
until the autumn. "I think to
mark time for months would be
a very bad thing," he said.

With the Northern Ireland
marching season approaching
and the European elections in
June, the two prime ministers
have privately agreed that time
is running out, and if no break-
through has been found by
mid-April they may have to
postpone the progress.

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent



Bertie Ahern is to meet
Tony Blair for talks

"Parking the talks is
body's favourite option but it
might prove necessary," said a
source in Dublin.

Over the weekend, there
was little sign of compromise
from either Sinn Fein or the
Unionists. Mr Trimble appealed to
loyalist paramilitaries to
break the log-jam over the
decommissioning of terrorist
weapons.

He said on the BBC's
Breakfast with Frost that if
they made a gesture it would
make the position of the hard-
liners in the republican move-
ment "untenable". He said: "It
think it is premature, far, far too

premature to be talking about
the end of the road. This
process is a lot more robust
than people realise."

He also confirmed he
planned to go to Rome for a
meeting of lawyers who are also
Nobel peace prize winners. While
there, he might also meet the
Pope. Mr Trimble said: "I
would not be the first Orange-
man to meet a Pope."

Dublin's authority to change
the country's constitutional
claim to the North, which was
secured in a referendum last
year, runs out in May but it
could be extended, probably
by a vote in the Irish Parliament.

Downing Street said last
night that the two prime min-
isters would be in "listening
mode" today, for their meeting
with Mr Adams, Mr Trimble and
John Hume, the SDLP leader.

The crisis meeting was called
after Mr Ahern and Mr Blair
agreed last week that the draft
Hillsborough declaration had
failed to win sufficient support
from either side.

Sean Neeson, the leader of
Ulster's cross-community
Alliance Party, addressing his
party's annual conference,
called on all sides to move away
from "their own narrow selfish
concerns" for the sake of the
peace agreement. "It is up to the
UUP and Sinn Fein to remove
the vetoes that they are im-
posing on the process," he said.



International Investigation into The Deaths
Of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson



A mural in Belfast, commemorating the murdered solicitors Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson. Pacemaker

Fresh look at lawyer's murder

A FRESH inquiry into allega-
tions of collusion by British
military intelligence in the
killing of a solicitor in Northern
Ireland has been ordered by the
Government.

But it falls well short of the
demands by the Irish govern-
ment and civil rights cam-
paigners for a public or judicial
inquiry into the murder of Pat
Finucane, a Belfast lawyer. Sir
Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC
chief constable, has asked an
assistant Metropolitan Police
commissioner, John Stevens, to
head the investigation. Ten
years ago, another inquiry by
Mr Stevens found no evidence
of "widespread or institutionalised
collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and
loyalist paramilitaries".

Sir Ronnie said if fresh
evidence was found, there would
be an independent inquiry. The
Government has been facing
rising pressure for the inquiry
to be reopened following last
month's murder of the civil
rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson.
Relatives of Ms Nelson are
today launching a campaign to
demand an independent and
international inquiry into allega-
tions of collusion in her death.

Mr Finucane was shot in 1993
by a loyalist gang which in-
cluded an Argyll intelligence
agent, Brian Nelson. The
British-Irish Rights Watch
claimed Mr Finucane's killers
were the pawns of British
military intelligence.

A United Nations report last
year also urged a judicial
inquiry.

COLIN BROWN



The Best Writing
Philip Hensher

train

boys
et their
own
Journal

Labour will reject proposals to elect peers' replacements

BY COLIN BROWN

out in support of a directly
elected upper house, with the
option of creating a "Senate".

Baroness Jay of Paddington,
the Leader of the Lords, is
expected to signal Labour's
position to a direct election in
a speech to the parliamentary
press gallery on Wednesday.

The chasm which has
opened between the Government
and the Tories could lead to
the long-term future of the
Lords becoming a battleground
at the next election and is likely
to threaten progress on the Bill
to remove the right of hereditary
peers to sit in the Lords.

The Lords Reform Bill be-
gins the committee stage this
week in the Lords with a vote
on the compromise amendment
to allow 91 hereditaries to
stay for the time being.

Tony Blair will be open to the
accusation of creating "Tony's
cronies" by replacing hereditaries
by nominated life peers.

Labour's Plant commission
suggested peers could be elected
indirectly from regional
constituencies leaving the final
choice to the prime minister
according to the proportion of
votes won in the elections.

Some ministers believe that
goes too far, and are cam-
paigning for Labour peers to be
nominated to the Lords from
within regional assemblies.



Blair: Will be seen to have
enabled "Tony's cronies"

At last, a plausible excuse for lying in bed each morning

BY CHERRY NORTON
AND CLAR BYRNE

that you don't carry out the
movements in your dreams.

Sleep paralysis occurs when
this continues into waking

consciousness," said Dr Chris
Idzikowski, the chairman of the
Royal Society of Medicine's
forum on sleep and its disor-
ders.

The study, of 8,100 people,
showed that people who expe-
rienced sleep paralysis often
felt sleepy during the day and
had difficulty falling asleep at
night. One in eight people
experienced their first episode
during childhood.

"When you dream, your body
becomes actively paralysed so

paralysis on a regular basis
should seek medical attention,"

said Dr Maurice Ohayon, of
New York University, who con-
ducted the study.

"In most cases, sleep para-
lysis can be treated. Contrary to
previous findings that sleep
paralysis began in adolescence,
our research showed it can start
at any age."

Around 6 per cent of those
who took part in the study had
experienced sleep paralysis at
least once in their lifetime.

"It used to be called 'night
nurses' paralysis' because of
the association with shift
work," said Dr Susan Black-
more, a senior lecturer in psychol-
ogy at the University of the

West of England, who is head-
ing the first major academic re-
search into sleep paralysis in
Britain.

"We have got to be paralysed
when dreaming, but there are
mechanisms to make sure we
don't realise this," she said.

According to Dr Blackmore,
it is a natural human condition
which does not require treat-
ment and should be treated by
learning relaxing techniques.

Preliminary findings from a
survey of 420 people being con-
ducted by Dr Blackmore's team
showed that 6.8 per cent suf-
fered from the condition at
least once a month, and 43 per
cent had experienced it at some
time.

answers

- 1.
- 2.
3. EIFFEL TOWER
4. D (A & B are a pair
as are C & E)
5. CAR.
6. ART

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

John Simpson: one of the world's most unlikely Serb apologists

MEDIA IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY TUESDAY

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINE, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITAM SMITH

LAW
SOLICITORS HELP
THE ARMY IN
MACEDONIA
PLUS: HEALTH

Train services axed as subsidies fall

HARD-UP train companies are slashing vital train services as they try to cope with dwindling Government subsidies.

Rural, suburban and long-distance services are being axed quietly, weeks after the Government pledged to boost rail travel.

Ministers admit they cannot prevent the cuts, despite promising to crack down on failures of the privatised industry.

Wales & West is slashing off-peak services from Liskeard to Looe in Cornwall and Exeter to Barnstaple in Devon. The changes in the train company's summer timetable published

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

later this month will cut seven trains and reduce the services to the lowest level without incurring a fine from regulators.

First North Western is axing two experimental services to London - from Blackpool and Manchester airport. The Manchester service carried only 253 people a week against a capacity of 5,040. It is also cutting nine off-peak evening services on the line from Manchester to Hadfield, Derbyshire.

Chiltern Railways, which has admitted running more

trains than the infrastructure could cope with, is cutting 3 per cent of its peak time trains.

Wales & West said the lines were among the most under-used and heavily subsidised in its region. The moves will allow it to run extra services on its busy routes out of Plymouth, it said.

The cuts are the first sign that the sharp fall in government subsidy, which reduces from £1.5bn to £600m by 2003, is biting.

In the autumn, Wales & West will cut the Swanline between Cardiff and Swansea close to the minimum. The 12 services

being axed cost £1.03m to run but raise only £250,000 in fares.

Chris Gibb, operations director, said: "As a railwayman I take no pleasure in reducing services, but the reduction in our grant this year by £5m requires us to look at all the services we provide above the contracted levels laid down in our franchise."

Glenda Jackson, the Transport minister, said train companies had to run a minimum number of services - the Passenger Service Requirement (PSR) - on commercially unviable lines.

But she added: "Where train

operators have introduced additional services for commercial reasons, they are free to adapt these services in response to passenger demand. This could include complete withdrawal of services or replacing rail services with bus services."

The Government is expected to impose tough obligations on operators - in exchange for greater subsidy or longer franchises - when their contracts come up for renewal to prevent of a repeat.

The campaign group Save Our Railways said operators were cutting to PSR levels, re-

ducing costs to cope with falling subsidies. "Many rural routes will be running a grudging minimal service which will not be attractive to potential users," said a spokesman. "A spiral of decline could follow with low usage and high running costs."

The Wales & West cuts have provoked protest. Local councillors have called on John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with responsibilities for railways, to intervene.

Godfrey Smale, the head of the Labour group on Cornwall County Council, said: "This action does not fit in with the government policy on encouraging people to use other forms of transport than the car."

Councillor Sid Gardener said other branch lines were threatened. "They have said the line is not economically viable, but none of our lines are economically viable. It comes down to the profit and loss."

Mr Gardener, a career rail-

wayman, said replacement

buses would add to congestion

on the narrow roads to Looe,

particularly during this sum-

mer's solar eclipse.

The Department for the En-

vironment, Transport and the

Regions said the summer

timetable would include "more

Big boys
get their
very own
journal

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

A NEW MAGAZINE aimed at the generation of men which believes clubbing can go hand-in-hand with gardening and that home decorating is an extension of high fashion is launched next week.

Later appears to be based on the premise that refusing to grow up is now a cultural trend and not just immaturity, following in the footsteps of *Red*, the first young women's magazine to mention children without appearing terminally unhip.

Red spotted that women were having children much later and keeping hold of both their careers and their dancing shoes when they did.

Now, using the unarguable logic that men have been refusing to grow old gracefully for years, comes a magazine which peppers its pages with thirtysomething icons like Leonard Rossiter, James Hunt and Bruce Lee.

"*Later* is for those of us who are no longer teenagers," says Phil Hilton, 35, the former editor of *Men's Health* who is editing the new magazine. "It's for the man who feels he is outgrowing the existing glossies."

If any articles in the first issue of *Later* sum up the different interests of the "middle earth" man from the standard magazine "lad", they are a profile of the journalist-turned-millionaire author Robert Harris and a piece on men who have given up their safe jobs to start their own businesses.

Eighteen months since its launch, *Red* is selling 175,000 copies a month but because the men's market is a less competitive one, IPC, the publisher of *Later*, is printing 400,000 copies of the first issue and backing it up with a £2.5m advertising campaign.

At least part of the appeal to publishers is that men in their middle youth have money to spend and are in the market for a range of consumer goods, not just beer and trainers.



Visitors to the Royal Academy for the 'Monet at Midnight' exhibition - "The fact that it's the middle of the night adds a little artsiness to the art"

Neville Elder

Hordes can't get in for love or Monet

BY CLARE GARNER

"IT'S A wicked exhibition to see off your face, because it's so beautiful and so dreamy." The couple who had dropped an ecstasy tab before "rocking up" at the Royal Academy at 2am yesterday clung to each other as they sat on a viewing bench.

They hadn't actually seen many paintings yet, but the night was young. "We're totally spun out by all the people here," said the 25-year-old woman who, by day, is a drugs and alcohol counsellor. "I want to walk around, but he's suffering loss of vision. Luckily we've got hours, so we'll sit here for a while and then go and walk around."

Despite notable exceptions, the pill-popping contingent at the *Monet after Midnight* exhibition was in the minority. Most of the 8,000 visitors to Britain's first all-night art exhibition appeared to be taking the task extremely seriously. Or perhaps they were just con-

centrating on staying awake.

Another tripping couple was scrutinising one of the paintings' captions. It read: "Lent to the Gobelins Tapestry Studio, Paris" - on the face of it a pretty uninteresting fact. "Where does the tapestry come into it then?" asked the girl. "Gobelins. Gobelins. Gobelins."

Despite notable exceptions, the pill-popping contingent at the *Monet after Midnight* exhibition was in the minority. Most of the 8,000 visitors to Britain's first all-night art exhibition appeared to be taking the task extremely seriously. Or perhaps they were just con-

centrating on staying awake. "It's warm as well which adds to the tiredness factor," said a bleary-eyed Andrew Tenant, 24. "I just keep thinking: 'Where's the exit? Where's the exit? I'm thinking of buying one of those books in the entrance.'

One woman, Ingrid Op Den Camp, 31, had flown into London from the Netherlands for 24 hours, especially to see exhibition. "The purple waterlilies. That's what's brought me," she said, explaining that she couldn't get a ticket for any other time slot. "I didn't book a hotel. I'm staying here all night."

By 3am yesterday 150 people were still waiting to get in. A

pair of students had been there several hours. "We're just very last-minute," said one, as if what he was doing was the most natural thing in the world. Josh Whaley, a 29-year-old artist from Islington, was less amused. "It's open 24 hours a day and we still can't get in," he said, heading for home.

But these people seemed happy to stand there till dawn if necessary, kissing, cuddling, and sharing chocolate cake. It was, after all, their last chance to pay their £9 and see the 80 assembled Monets. Last night the paintings were packed up, ready to be returned to their various private and public homes around the world.

Outside the Royal Academy,

viewing art in the middle of the night was less than ideal.

"I feel I could appreciate the paintings more in the day when I'm bright and awake, but appreciating them a bit is better than nothing at all," said Teri McQueen, 20, a student from California.

But for Ray Pech, 36, a salesman from Indianapolis, the experience was special. "We've found this little cache of time while everyone else is sleeping. By the time they wake up we will have done an entirely different event that they would never have considered ... Just the fact that it's the middle of the night adds a little artsiness to the art."

Cardinal Hume broke the news of his advanced illness in letters to the priests in his archdiocese. He had, however, received "two wonderful graces", he wrote. "First, I have been given time to prepare for a new future. Secondly, I find myself - uncharacteristically - calm and at peace."

A member of his Westminster congregation said yesterday: "The cardinal is such a great man and is an example to us all. I think this is a pointer to everyone about how to face up to this terrible disease. Our thoughts are with him."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said on hearing the news: "I am so sorry to learn of Cardinal Hume's illness. His ability to look forward with hope is typical of the man we know love and respect."

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Militia kills 13 in East Timor carnage

INDONESIA DREW a storm of international protest yesterday after a massacre in East Timor on Saturday, in which pro-Indonesia militiamen stormed a house in the capital, and hatched at least 13 people. Many more are feared dead.

As gunshots rang out across Dili yesterday, an anti-independence militia leader warned civil war could break out if fighting with rival separatists escalated.

The warning came as witnesses said two people were killed in a clash at a market at Beira, on the eastern outskirts of the town. Troops opened fire on a crowd after militia members said they had been outnumbered by separatist fighters.

The United States said it was "deeply disturbed" by the killings. Australia blamed the Indonesian government for the violence, and Brazil said it was ready to send peace-keeping troops to the territory.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian military and senior militia commander, Jao Tavares, said his men had been provoked into violence by attacks and threats made by independence activists.

Fighting among rival East Timorese would "not solve problems... it will instead trigger a civil war", the commander said, according to the official Antara news agency.

Indonesia has accepted responsibility for the killings, but militiamen still roamed the streets of Dili almost unchecked. Police turned foreign journalists away from the house where the massacre occurred though Timorese militiamen moved freely behind the cordon.

"We're just obeying orders", said a policeman, Kalashnikov slung over his shoulder.

Dili was in shock. Its Catholic churches were full, as priests led prayers for an end to the violence. By noon, the streets were deserted again. "Of course we're afraid", said Father Dibya of the Motael church. He also likes to threaten journalists.

Saturday's massacre took

place in the house of Manuel Carrascalao, a leader of the pro-independence movement. There were 127 people there when the attack began on Saturday afternoon, most had fled militia terror in the countryside.

By chance, Mr Carrascalao and his daughter Christina had taken refuge in the house of Bishop Carlos Belo, a Nobel prize winner. The militiamen stormed the house anyway, shooting through windows and hacking at terrified people as they hid under a table. Four foreign reporters were chased away. Two of them, both French, narrowly escaped being killed.

The security forces, which initially denied there had been a massacre, say 20 people died in Dili on Saturday, including 12 at the house. All were killed by East Timorese militiamen sworn to stop their land breaking away from Indonesia. Bishop Belo counted 12 bodies in the morgue. One was Mr Carrascalao's teenage son, Manuel.

The distraught father was forbidden to take his son's body out of the morgue for 48 hours. "There's a procedure for collecting the body, but there's no procedure for murder," he snapped. Mr Carrascalao and his daughter were seeking police protection yesterday.

Of the 127 in the house, 48 are sheltering in the Dili police barracks, with other refugees. A handful more are being treated in hospitals. This leaves up to 60 people whose fate is unknown. Some are thought to be at the house of Eulico Guterres, a militia leader. Some accounts say that Guterres tried to stop the massacre. But Guterres is no angel. He used to work on covert operations with a notorious Indonesian officer, Prabowo Subianto, and his speeches have done much to inflame the bloodlust of his men. He also likes to threaten journalists.

Indonesia has offered East Timor independence after 23 years of bloody occupation. A referendum on the issue was due to take place in July, sponsored by the United Nations. Many in Dili think nationalists in the army are using the militias to create chaos and stop the vote.

The militias draw their support from the minority of East Timorese who want Indonesian rule. They say they are defending the people from the terror of the independence movement. It is true that there have been some guerrilla at-

tacks recently, but nothing on the scale of the militia violence.

Many pro-Jakarta Timorese are appalled by what happened on Saturday. "I say it is a cruel action which we should condemn," said Gil Alves, a local businessman. He believes the militias are out of control.

The militias drill in public places, watched by Indonesian army officers. Most carry home-made muskets, but a few have much to inflame the bloodlust of their men. He also likes to threaten journalists.

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India's future: Widow of former prime minister may take over top job after ruling coalition loses confidence vote



Traders were selling posters of Sonia Gandhi, the Congress Party President, in Delhi yesterday as supporters waited outside her home hoping she will become prime minister after the fall of the BJP-led government. AFP/PA

Gandhi poised to continue dynasty

BY IAN MACKINNON
in Delhi

THE TANTALISING prospect that a member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty could once again hold sway over the world's largest democracy lurched a step closer yesterday as horse-trading followed the toppling of the Indian government.

Sonia Gandhi, Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi and President of the Congress Party, is in pole position to become prime minister should she and her aides deem the time ripe.

But in the intrigue-filled world of Indian politics which saw the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition felled by just one vote in Saturday's confidence motion, Congress leaders may choose not to risk their most prized asset at such a juncture.

The unexpected fall of the 13-month Hindu nationalist

REIGNS OF power are hers for the taking. But even if Sonia Gandhi, the widow of India's assassinated prime minister, Rajiv, rejects the proffered premiership, everyone knows she will be.

For the 52-year-old woman who bears the name of India's most enduring political family, the journey to the brink of ruling almost a billion people has been a tortuous and often painful one. Yet it is all the more

remarkable considering she only entered the murky world of Indian politics less than two years ago. Her abhorrence of politics was shaped by tragedy. When her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, was killed by her Sikh bodyguards.

Until then she had lived in relative obscurity with Rajiv, who chose a career as a pilot over politics. Born Sonia Malhotra into a Turin business family in

Party against the government after pre-telling their abstentions on the floor of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament. The champion of the "untouchables" of the Hindu caste system wrong-footed the BJP. It was payback time for the high-caste party which earlier wangled on a deal with Mayawati to share power in

India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

A piqued Mr Vajpayee, immediately tendered the government's resignation to President Kocber Raman Narayanan.

A committee of Congress leaders yesterday spent 40 minutes with the President. Their key concern was the budget.

MOTHER OF A NATION?

1946, she studied English at Cambridge, where Rajiv also studied. Her father opposed their marriage because there was "too much difference" between them. But they married anyway in 1968 and she became a naturalised Indian who now speaks Hindi but with an Italian accent.

She did her best to prevent

Rajiv taking up where his murdered mother had left off. "I fought like a tigress - for him, for us and our children, for the life we had made together," she wrote.

"I was angry and resentful towards a system which, as I saw it, demanded him as a sacrificial lamb. It would crush and destroy him - of that I was cer-

tain." She lost the fight and became a rank-and-file member soon after accepting the party presidency. The prospect of an even greater defeat at the polls last year lured her on to the campaign trail.

Gandhi name to manipulate the party behind the scenes from her Edwin Lutyens-designed mansion in Delhi and after Congress's drubbing in the 1996 election, cracks began to appear in her resolve.

The following year she became a rank-and-file member soon after accepting the party presidency. The prospect of an even greater defeat at the polls last year lured her on to the campaign trail.

to take the lead, its leaders are split on whether Mrs Gandhi, 52, should be prime minister. It would be a simple process even though she is not elected. India's Constitution allows Congress simply to nominate her Prime Minister, giving her six months to win a safe seat.

Praful Bidwai, a political commentator, explained Congress's dilemma: "One view is that she's the only viable leader. On the other hand, there are those who think that unless she's sure of heading a viable government, she shouldn't allow her image to be sullied. Either way, as chairperson and party president, she'll be in charge."

But he believes there is little chance of stability. "I'm not certain what's going to happen now. I think there's not much chance of purposeful, cohesive government. The best thing would be to call a very early election to clear the air."

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 16TH APRIL 1999.		FLEMING Premier Banking			
Account Balance	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
Investment Account - paid quarterly	4.84	4.75	4.58	4.50	3.60
£10,000 - 98,999	4.58	4.50	4.58	4.50	3.60
£100,000 - 99,999	4.22	4.15	4.58	4.50	3.60
£1,000,000 - 3,999	3.55	3.50	3.75	3.75	2.20
£50,000 - 4,999	2.27	2.25	2.50	2.50	1.60
£2 - 2,000	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
Business Account - paid monthly	3.25	3.20	3.02	3.00	2.40
£10,000 - 98,999	2.73	2.70	2.50	2.50	2.00
£100,000 - 99,999	2.12	2.05	1.75	1.75	1.40
£1,000,000 - 99,999	1.71	1.70	1.25	1.25	1.00
£20,000 - 24,999	0.65	0.65	0.50	0.50	0.40
Corporate Account - paid quarterly	3.00	2.75	3.04	3.00	2.40
£10,000 - 98,999	2.76	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
£100,000 - 99,999	1.92	1.90	1.85	1.85	1.50
£1,000,000 - 99,999	1.11	1.10	0.85	0.85	0.60
Current Account - paid quarterly	2.29	2.26	2.03	2.00	1.40
£10,000 - 98,999	2.09	2.05	1.95	1.95	1.35
£100,000 - 99,999	1.23	1.20	1.05	1.05	1.00
Overdraft 30 - paid monthly	5.48	5.35	5.22	5.10	4.00
£10,000 - 98,999	5.38	5.25	5.10	5.00	4.00
£100,000 - 99,999	5.05	4.95	4.50	4.50	3.00
£1,000,000 - 99,999	3.82	3.75	3.56	3.50	2.00
Asset 30 - paid monthly	5.08	5.25	5.12	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - 98,999	5.01	4.95	4.75	4.65	3.72
£100,000 - 99,999	4.88	4.75	4.50	4.50	3.60
£1,000,000 - 99,999	3.56	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.00
£20,000 - 24,999	2.27	2.25	2.02	2.00	1.60
£200,000 - 24,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
Save & Prosper Investment Account - paid quarterly	4.84	4.75	4.58	4.50	3.60
£10,000 - 98,999	4.58	4.50	4.58	4.50	3.60
£100,000 - 99,999	4.22	4.15	4.06	4.00	3.20
£1,000,000 - 99,999	3.55	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.00
£20,000 - 24,999	2.27	2.25	2.02	2.00	1.60
£200,000 - 24,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
Save & Prosper Reward 30 - paid monthly	4.84	4.75	4.58	4.50	3.60
£10,000 - 98,999	4.58	4.50	4.58	4.50	3.60
£100,000 - 99,999	4.22	4.15	4.06	4.00	3.20
£1,000,000 - 99,999	3.55	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.00
£20,000 - 24,999	2.27	2.25	2.02	2.00	1.60
£200,000 - 24,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
Save & Prosper Fast-Track ISA - paid monthly	5.06	4.85	4.58	4.50	3.60
£1,000,000 - 99,999	3.82	3.75	3.58	3.60	2.80
ACCOUNTS NO LONGER OFFERED TO NEW DEPOSITORS					
Classic Account - paid monthly	2.53	2.50	2.27	2.25	1.60
£10,000 - 98,999	2.02	2.00	1.77	1.75	1.40
£100,000 - 99,999	1.51	1.50	1.26	1.25	1.00
£1,000,000 - 99,999	1.01	1.00	0.75	0.75	0.50
£20,000 - 24,999	0.55	0.55	0.50	0.50	0.20
Deposits Account	3.25	3.25	3.03	3.00	2.40
£10,000 - 98,999	2.78	2.75	2.52	2.50	2.00
£100,000 - 99,999	2.05	2.05	1.80	1.80	1.50
£1,000,000 - 99,999	1.51	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.80
£20,000 - 24,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.20
Higher Rate Deposit Account	4.01	3.98	3.55	3.50	2.80
£10,000 - 98,999	3.75	3.70	3.28	3.25	2.10
£100,000 - 99,999	3.24	3.20	2.78	2.75	2.00
£1,000,000 - 99,999	2.51	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.80
£20,000 - 24,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.20
Travel Account - paid annually	5.60	5.50	5.26	5.25	-
£100,000 - 98,999	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.50	-

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The holy city that's a paradise for thieves

FRONTLINE

JERUSALEM



Unwary pilgrims fill the city of Jerusalem

coffee with the police. They have an understanding."

When St Anne's hired three watchmen to stop thieves entering the grounds of the church they were immediately arrested. The police wanted to know if they had any links with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which rules Gaza and Palestinian enclaves on the West Bank, and which Israel is determined to kick out of the city.

Jerusalem, as pilgrims flood in to celebrate the millennium, is a thieves' paradise. The narrow alleys of the Old City are filled with visitors, often carrying cash in money pouches. The Via Dolorosa gang works in threes. One directs the victim by trying to sell postcards while the others covertly unzip bags or remove wallets.

The most dangerous places are the most crowded - the entrance to the Holy Sepulchre, Ali Jidda, a guide, says: "The pickpockets are a source of information for the security services. Also Israel wants to show the world that Arabs are not to be trusted."

Father Joulain says: "Everybody knows the gang. We see them often drinking

the Via Dolorosa, the Garden of Gethsemane and the top of the Mount of Olives.

There has been violence. A priest on the Mount of Olives lost an eye in an attack still unsolved. One Palestinian walking through the Christian Quarter at night was suddenly stabbed in the arm and hurried to the ground.

He says: "One of them held a knife to my throat and said in broken English: 'Give me everything.' He did. Police asked him three times to go to a police station to identify his assailants. He says: "Each time I waited two or three hours, but I never saw anybody." Some Palestinians go to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which has a covert presence in the Old City. Another guide, Khalid, says: "The PA is itself very corrupt. You never quite know who you are talking to."

The brother of the leader of Via Dolorosa gang is said to be a senior officer in Yasser Arafat's elite paramilitary group known as Force 17.

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Anglo American to split top roles



ANGLO AMERICAN, the South African industrial conglomerate seeking to list on the London stock exchange, is to split the roles of chairman and chief executive to meet British corporate governance standards. Julian Ogilvie Thompson (pictured) is to promote a colleague internally to be chief executive while he remains as chairman. However, a spokesman said the appointment would not be made for two years. The group, which publishes its flotation document on Thursday, also said it was appointing five non-executive directors, including Sir Alick Rankin, former chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle, as deputy chairman.

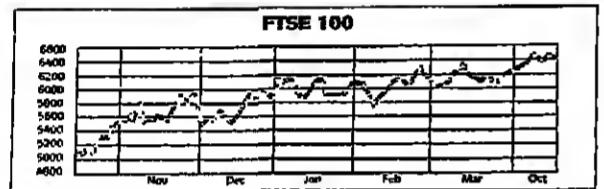
Warning on money-laundering

THE TREASURY will today warn financial institutions about weakening protection against money-laundering in Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean islands. Treasury officials are increasingly worried about amendments to anti-money laundering laws which restrict co-operation with overseas police authorities. In a statement, the Treasury will ask institutions to "pay particular attention" to transactions involving offshore Antiguan institutions, reporting anything suspicious to the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Manufacturers' confidence up

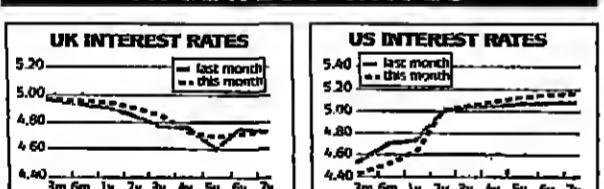
BUSINESS CONFIDENCE among manufacturers has leapt, with more than two-thirds expressing optimism about sales, according to a quarterly survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the marketing information group. The survey, conducted in the last week of March, showed a 16 per cent jump in confidence among manufacturers since the previous survey published in January. Dun & Bradstreet said optimism in the service sector had also increased. Of 1,600 companies surveyed, three-quarters expect sales to improve.

STOCK MARKETS



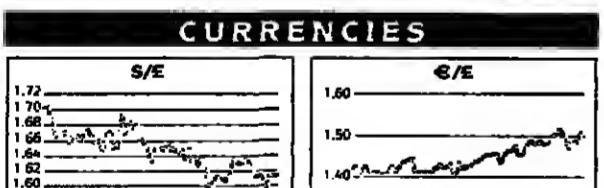
INDICES									
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)			
FTSE 100	6420.60	-52.20	-0.81	6539.9	4599.2	2.444			
FTSE 250	5796.20	232.70	4.18	5870.9	4247.6	3.032			
FTSE 350	3068.30	-1.60	-0.05	3103	2210.4	2.536			
FTSE All Share	2969.70	0.97	0.03	3000.33	2143.93	2.619			
FTSE SmallCap	2467.10	43.80	1.81	2793.8	1834.4	4.317			
FTSE Pensions	1340.10	19.80	1.50	1517.1	1046.2	3.832			
FTSE AIM	902.70	29.40	3.37	1146.9	761.3	1.136			
FTSE Eurotop 100	2977.34	-26.42	-0.88	3079.27	2018.18	1.953			
FTSE Eurotop 300	1289.14	-54.40	-0.42	1332.07	880.63	1.893			
Dow Jones	10493.89	320.05	3.15	10526.54	7400.3	1.507			
Nikkei	16851.58	-4.05	-0.02	17166.93	12787.9	0.752			
Hang Seng	12490.80	576.20	4.84	11975.65	6544.79	2.8			
Dax	5155.35	31.17	0.61	5217.83	3833.71	1.588			
S&P 500	1318.77	-29.58	-2.19	1362.38	923.32	1.217			
Nasdaq	2462.43	-110.62	-4.27	2650.52	1357.09	0.287			
Toronto 300	7013.20	123.43	1.79	7837.7	5320.9	1.486			
Brazil Bovespa	11407.39	80.20	0.71	12249.81	4575.69	3.102			
Belgium Be20	3284.59	-4.00	-1.38	3713.21	2696.26	2.006			
Amsterdam Exh	547.89	9.66	1.80	600.65	366.58	1.831			
France CAC 40	4300.91	-67.23	-1.43	4416	2881.21	1.681			
Milan MIB30	36554.00	-206.00	-0.56	39170	24175	1.056			
Madrid Ibex 35	9777.30	-324.60	-3.21	10989.8	6869.9	1.627			
Irish Overall	5308.86	-46.05	-0.90	5581.7	3732.57	1.555			
S Korea Comp	725.14	87.72	5.49	722.03	277.37	0.959			
Australia ASX	3099.80	39.80	1.30	3099.5	2386.7	2.996			

INTEREST RATES



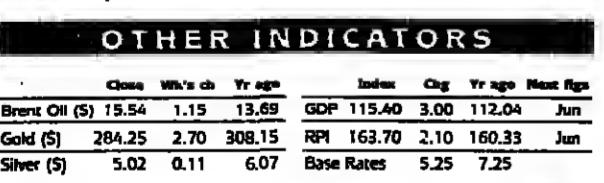
MONEY MARKET RATES									
Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	Yr chg	10 years	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg	Yield(%)
UK	5.32	-2.20	5.34	-2.16	4.52	-1.25	4.52	-1.17	
US	9.00	-0.69	9.23	-0.62	5.57	0.30	
Japan	0.15	-0.52	0.21	-0.48	1.61	-0.21	2.37	-0.06	
Germany	2.62	-1.02	2.71	-1.25	3.67	-0.99	4.88	-0.95	

CURRENCIES



POUND									
Friday	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Yr ago	Monday	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6135	+0.31c	1.6915	-0.26c	0.6198	0.6198	-0.12p	0.5912	-0.05c
Euro	1.5074	+1.96c	1.4079	-0.21c	0.9344	0.9344	-0.95c	0.8571	-0.04c
Yen	190.18	-W4.19	222.75	-W4.19	117.77	117.77	-W3.33	131.77	-W4.19
6 index	103.50	+0.50	108.10	-0.50	108.00	108.00	-0.90	109.50	-0.50

OTHER INDICATORS



TOURIST RATES									
Index	Close	Chg	Yr ago	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Yr ago	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	15.54	1.15	13.69	-0.05	115.40	3.00	112.04	Jun	
Gold (\$)	284.25	2.70	308.15	-0.05	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33	Jun
Silver (\$)	5.02	0.11	6.07	-0.05	Base Rates	5.25	7.25		

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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.3939	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.94
Austria (schillings)	20.00	Netherlands (gulders)	3.2055
Belgium (francs)	58.80	New Zealand (\$)	2.8302
Canada (\$)	2.3230	Norway (krone)	12.13
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8396	Portugal (escudos)	250.41
Denmark (kroner)	10.89	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8684
Finland (markka)	8.7246	Singapore (\$)	2.6237
France (francs)	9.5335	South Africa (rand)	9.4616
Germany (marks)	2.8524	Spain (pesetas)	241.35
Greece (drachma)	473.65	Sweden (koron)	13.03
Hong Kong (\$)	12.04	Switzerland (francs)	2.3437
Ireland (pounds)	1.1448	Thailand (bahts)	55.37
Indian (rupees)	61.69	Turkey (lira)	59109
Israel (shekels)	5.9229	USA (\$)	1.5654
Italy (lira)	2832		
Japan (yen)	185.48		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.8696		
Malta (lira)	0.6190		

Rates for editorial purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Kingfisher and Asda see £100m benefits

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

KINGFISHER AND Asda are expected to confirm that they see benefits worth more than £100m flowing from their £19bn retail merger when they unveil details of the deal to the public and City investors today.

The figure is at the top end of the range talked about on Friday, when it emerged that the two groups were on the brink of the deal, and comes despite the insistence on both sides of the merits of the deal.

There was widespread speculation at the weekend that until rest from shareholders about the terms of the deal

n benefit

Sergeant Major of the Royal Artillery, Major General Sir Michael Lynch, has been appointed to the Royal Artillery. He will be the first Royal Artillery General Officer to be appointed to the Royal Artillery since the 19th century.

The economic consequences of Kosovo

WITH THE EXCEPTION of a slight weakening in the euro against the dollar, the Kosovo conflict has so far been almost entirely ignored by the financial markets. This stands in sharp contrast to the initial phase of the Gulf War in 1990, when global equity prices fell by almost one-fifth in the wake of the Iraqi invasion. Business and consumer confidence also collapsed in the United States in the space of three months, exacerbating the onset of what proved to be a severe American recession. So are the markets being too complacent about the economic consequences of Slobodan Milošević?

The one thing that can safely be said about warfare is that it is unpredictable. Indeed, even more than in the case of economics, supposed "experts" in military matters are often the people most surprised by the twists and turns of military conflagration. In the early 1960s, when the US took its first tentative steps into Vietnam, no one would have imagined that the economic consequences would eventually escalate into a vast expansion of US budgetary and monetary policy, triggering a severe outbreak of global inflation and the collapse of the Bretton Woods exchange rate system.

In the early 1990s, few would have foreseen that the startling success of the blitzkrieg against Saddam Hussein would lay the



GAVYN DAVIES

The truth, for good or ill, is that wars are not particularly expensive compared with the costs of other evils

groundwork for a decade of "peace dividend" in the form of lower energy prices and declining defence spending. In the US alone, defence cutbacks reduced the budget deficit by 2.5 per cent of GDP, lowering the global bond yield by some 0.75 per cent.

What about Kosovo? Several weeks ago, Nato embarked on a route of limited aerial combat, and this still remains the most likely scenario for the conflict to follow. Nato's current game plan would appear to be to impose large-scale military losses on the Serbian war machine - losses which will hopefully prove sufficient to induce Mr

Milošević to sue for an "acceptable" peace. The financial cost of such a war would be very limited - at present, the US is estimated to be spending \$30m per day on the aerial bombardment, and it is expected that President Clinton will soon submit to Congress a \$1bn-\$8bn supplementary budget request, designed to fund the Kosovo operation through to the end of this fiscal year (30 September). Obviously, this level of costs is minor against the background of a likely US budget surplus of more than \$100bn this year, so it is hardly surprising that the financial markets have largely ignored the Kosovo conflict so far.

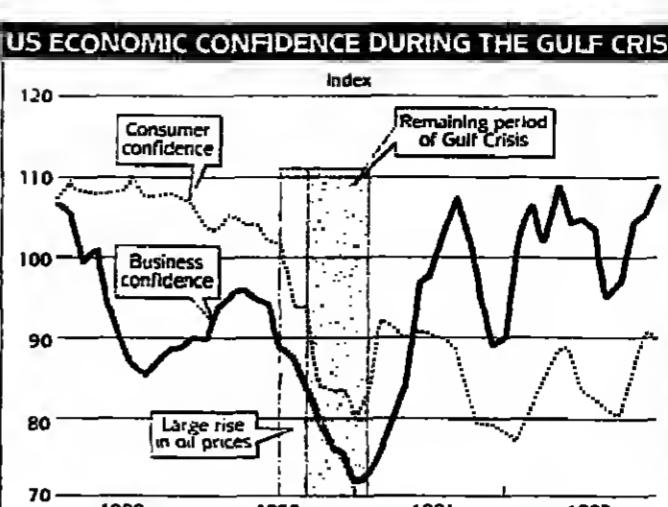
In the case of the UK, no official estimates of costs have been given, but defence specialists have suggested that it might be running at some \$1m a day, which would not be enough to put much of a dent in the Treasury's £1bn contingency reserve for this year. Thus, provided that some form of settlement can be reached in the next few months, without significant escalation towards a ground conflict, the financial markets are probably right largely to ignore the Kosovo threat.

This could change if the West became embroiled in a prolonged ground war. Although President Clinton has repeatedly ruled out the possibility of troop deployment on the ground, this seems to have become somewhat more likely in recent days, given the increasingly

hawkish trend of political opinion in the United States and the UK. Furthermore, there is a possibility that Mr Milošević may himself choose to escalate the war by attacking neighbouring states.

However, there are two reasons for expressing severe doubts about whether the major Western powers will allow themselves to be dragged into a general ground war. First, there is no vital economic interest at stake in the Balkans, even for the Western European economies, still less for the United States. Obviously, there are first-order moral and humanitarian issues at stake, but there is nothing on the economic front as compelling as the security of oil supplies, which justified the massive Gulf operation to the American voter. Second, repeated experience during this century suggests that the costs and potential risks of a conflagration in the Balkans might be extremely large, with significant risks of a high casualty rate, an escalating conflict, and scant prospects of an outright victory.

All in all, in a worst case, this could end up looking more like Vietnam than the Persian Gulf in terms of the cost/benefit ratio facing the Western powers. Given these risks and uncertainties, and the lack of a vital economic interest at stake, it still seems that the US and its allies will be very circumspect before allowing themselves to become



embroiled in a major ground war. But what if this did occur? One way of gauging the possible economic effect is to remind ourselves of what happened during the Gulf War in 1990-91. That conflict started with an aerial bombardment, and it eventually escalated into a ground war which involved the deployment of 500,000 US troops in the Middle East, along with 160,000 troops from other allied nations. The eventual cost of the Gulf War to the United States was estimated at \$61bn gross, of which about \$5bn was later offset by America's allies.

If we update these costs to 1999 levels, a "Gulf War" fought today might cost \$80bn. This is a vastly higher figure than the official US estimate of the possible cost of a ground conflict in Kosovo, which is only \$1bn per month. But even a repeat of the Gulf cost of \$80bn, which is a highly pessimistic assessment, would amount to only around 0.3 per cent of OECD GDP. According to Goldman Sachs bond models, an increase in OECD budget deficits of this amount would increase 10-year bond yields by only around 0.2 per cent. The truth, for good or ill, is that wars are not particularly expensive - certainly by comparison with the costs of other evils such as recessions or widespread poverty.

Why, then, did bond and equity markets decline so much during the initial phase of the Gulf War? The most important point to make here is that the Gulf War involved a serious threat to global oil supplies, and therefore triggered (in its early stages) a vast increase in the oil price. Specifically, from June 1990 to September 1990, the oil price approximately doubled from \$19 a barrel to \$36 a barrel. Subsequently, as it became clear that oil supplies were unlikely to be seriously disrupted, the price started to subside again, declining to \$20 a barrel by the time the war was won in February 1991. A Balkans conflict, by contrast, would be most unlikely to trigger any significant increase in oil or commodity prices, and should therefore have less effect on financial markets.

This leaves the possibility of a detrimental impact on business and consumer confidence, leading to recession. This time, Western Europe seems far more vulnerable to such a shock to confidence than the United States, not least because of its geographical proximity to the conflict zone. If a ground war erupts and shows signs of going badly for the Western powers, this could have a highly detrimental effect on consumer confidence, especially in Germany. But hopefully even this would blow over fairly quickly unless the war went really badly wrong.

Paribas to use Axa pact in bid battle

THE FIGHT by French banks Société Générale and Paribas to fend off a hostile bid from rival BNP looks set to descend into further legal wrangling today, when Paribas unveil details of a shareholder pact that it claims stops its largest shareholder, Axa, backing the BNP bid.

Paribas is still smarting over the fact that Claude Béar, the Axa chairman, originally backed Paribas' bid to merge with SocGen when it was unveiled in early February, only to switch sides when BNP came forward with a better offer some weeks later.

According to Paribas, the pact, which goes back to 1989, prevents Axa selling its stake in

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor



Daniel Bonton (left) and Andre Levy-Lang face criticism

signs that both the Paribas chairman Andre Levy-Lang and Daniel Bonton, chairman of SocGen, are facing mounting internal criticism over their

refusal to countenance repeated offers from BNP chairman Michel Pebernau for all three to get around the table and seek to thrash out an agreed deal.

City sources claimed at the weekend that a senior banker from Morgan Stanley, one of a clutch of highly paid investment banks to sign on to shore up the SG Paribas defence, went to BNP with the idea of a merger with SocGen just weeks before it was signed up to join the defence team.

The sources say that Morgan Stanley has sought to play down the affair, claiming that it was a junior analyst who came up with the idea. Nevertheless, it is grist to the mill of those inside and outside the bank who claim that neither shareholders nor employees are well served by the insistence on fighting the BNP bid to the death.

PROSPECTS OF A 100bn euro white knight bid for Deutsche Telekom by Italy's Telecom Italia were boosted yesterday after the idea received enthusiastic backing from the governments of Italy and Germany.

Italy signalled it could accept a deal provided it was structured as "a merger of equals".

Deutsche, which is also believed to be interested in bidding for UK mobile phone network One2One, is discussing a merger deal which would scupper a rival hostile bid from Olivetti and create a \$200bn European telecoms giant.

effective veto on any bid, is believed to have been concerned at the prospect of the Italian national telecommunications falling into the hands of a company which is still majority controlled by the German government.

However, after the meeting Mr Visco said that there were ways around that obstacle.

"The question is that ownership does not interfere in management. This can be done in several ways."

Mr Elchel said for his part: "We have an underlying liking for the idea that the two companies could get together."

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 3.129%																							
5.214 Allied Breweries	486.6	0.6	6.1	16.4		163 BSH	365.5	-2.3	7.3	121		163 Brit Pubs	126.5	-1.0	10.0		163 Brit Pubs	126.5	-0.8	10.0		163 Brit Pubs	
174 Bensons FLS	32.0	1.0	5.7	16.3		164 Callies	292.5	0.0	6.0	6.3		165 Anglo Pd	120.0	-1.0	6.5		165 Anglo Pd	120.0	-0.8	6.5		165 Anglo Pd	
10 Bensons FLS	175.5	0.0	5.7	16.3		166 Cembre	120.0	-1.0	5.7	10.1		166 BHP	210.0	-0.5	5.5		166 BHP	210.0	-0.5	5.5		166 BHP	
217 Bensons FLS	87.0	-0.9	3.1	16.2		167 Bensons M	195.0	0.0	7.1	3.5		168 BHP	201.0	-0.5	5.5		168 BHP	201.0	-0.5	5.5		168 BHP	
93 Bensons FLS	572.5	-2.5	12.0	16.2		169 Bensons M	245.0	-0.5	35.5	1.2		170 BHP	195.0	-0.5	5.5		170 BHP	195.0	-0.5	5.5		170 BHP	
321 Bensons FLS	37.5	-0.5	4.0	16.3		171 Bensons M	185.0	-0.5	31.0	7.5		172 BHP	185.0	-0.5	31.0		172 BHP	185.0	-0.5	31.0		172 BHP	
121 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		173 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		174 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		174 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		174 BHP	
122 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		175 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		176 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		176 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		176 BHP	
123 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		177 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		178 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		178 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		178 BHP	
124 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		179 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		180 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		180 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		180 BHP	
125 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		181 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		182 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		182 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		182 BHP	
126 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		183 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		184 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		184 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		184 BHP	
127 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		185 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		186 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		186 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		186 BHP	
128 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		187 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		188 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		188 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		188 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		189 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		190 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		190 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		190 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		191 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		192 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		192 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		192 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		193 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		194 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		194 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		194 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		195 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		196 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		196 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		196 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		197 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		198 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		198 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		198 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		199 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		200 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		200 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		200 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		201 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		202 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		202 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		202 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		203 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		204 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		204 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		204 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		205 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		206 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		206 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		206 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		207 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		208 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		208 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		208 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		209 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		210 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		210 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		210 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		211 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		212 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		212 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		212 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		213 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		214 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		214 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		214 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		215 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		216 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		216 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		216 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		217 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		218 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		218 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		218 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		219 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		220 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		220 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		220 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		221 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		222 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		222 BHP	175.0	-0.5	31.0		222 BHP	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		223 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		224 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		224 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		224 Bensons	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		225 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		226 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		226 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		226 Bensons	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		227 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		228 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		228 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		228 Bensons	
129 Bensons FLS	12.0	-0.5	4.0	16.3		229 Bensons M	102.5	-0.5	30.0	6.0		230 Bensons	175.0	-0.5	31.0		230 Bensons	175.0	-0.5</td				

Bookies cash in on the boom in blue-chip betting

STOCK MARKET WEEK



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

DARING punters will today be given a new instrument to test their stock market expertise. The bookmaker Sporting Index is launching Financial Spreads, a dedicated stock market spread betting service aimed at retail and semi-professional investors. The venture is the first new entrant for 15 years in the financial spreads market, which is dominated by the two arch-rivals City Index and IG Index.

The financial spread betting market is booming and Sporting, the UK leader in sports betting, wants to cash in on it.

Last year, punters placed 250,000 financial bets with City and IG, compared with a mere 70,000 three years ago. Within the next two years, the total should rise to around 350,000, valuing the overall market at over £10m.

Sporting, run by two former merchant bankers and backed by Electric Investment Trust, plans to offer a standard range of spread bets and a couple of quirky innovations. Flutter-loving punters will be able to bet by phone on the FTSE 100 index and on individual blue-chip stocks as well as the Dow, the Nikkei and a swathe of futures contracts.

The basic spread bet is simple enough. Imagine that the FTSE 100 is trading at 6,025. The bookmaker will quote a spread of, say, 6,021-6,028. If you think the index is likely to go higher, you "buy" the spread and bet Financial Spreads' minimum stake of £2 per point. Conversely, if you think the market is heading for a fall, you "sell" the spread with the same stake. At the end of the day, the FTSE 100 settles at 6,000. If you bought the



Lindsay McNeile (left) and Compton Hellyer, the chief executive and chairman of Sporting Index. Colin Beare

market you win £104 – the difference between the higher end of the spread (6,028) and the final tally (6,000) times your stake. If you went for a fall, the reverse happens and you will have to dish out £118.

For the really cautious investor, Sporting is offering an option whereby stakes range from 50p to £5 a point, but the maximum loss is limited to £200.

If used wisely, spread betting can be a useful tool for the retail investor. For a start, it is simpler and faster than going through a traditional broker. It also pays tax-free winnings because Sporting, the UK leader in sports spread betting, will pay the duty charged on every bet.

It can even allow a form of do-it-yourself hedging for the millions of investors with personal portfolios and shares in PEPs and ISAs. If your investment vehicle holds shares in a particular company and you think that the stock is heading south, a carefully placed sell order against the stock could offset the negative effect of the share price slide on your savings. The after-hours opening, from 7am to 9.30pm, also gives punters the chance to hedge after the market has closed.

So shall we forget our old-fashioned brokers and go down

to the spread bookie? Not so fast. Spread betting hides a couple of major catches.

The first and most obvious one is that exponential wins can easily turn into exponential losses, much higher than on the boring old stock market. More importantly, the spread offered by Financial Spreads is higher than the one quoted by stockbrokers. The bookie claims that the larger spread goes to pay for the after-hours opening, the betting duty and the constant update of spreads, but there is no doubt that spread betting is a more expensive way to play the market than dealing through a broker.

The other caveat is about credit limits. Sure, minimum stakes are far lower than with

stockbrokers, but punters need to provide security equal to four times their credit limit. If you want a credit limit of £2,000, you have to show the bookie that you have at least £8,000 in cash or shares.

Financial spread betting fans will not have much to get their teeth into this week, as only a handful of FTSE 100 members are due to report. Associated British Foods kicks off today, with yearly profits likely to be flat at £190m. The Silver Spoon sugar to Twinkies tea group has not digested the effects of the strong pound and tough milling markets, while baking markets have been squeezed by the supermarkets' bread wars.

ABF will have to say something positive on trading if it wants to see the shares come back to last year's 60p high from the current 42.25p. The chairman Garry Weston, who controls nearly two-thirds of the shares with his family, will also have to field questions about ABF's plans for its £1bn cash pile.

Bank of Scotland will produce a solid set of final earnings, say £844m versus £722m last year. Add a £16m exceptional gain from the sale of its New Zealand-based bank to Lloyds TSB and headline profits will probably top £1bn for the first

time ever. Good margins, a rise in investment income and lower bad loans provisions will be behind the figures.

SmithKline Beecham and Imperial Chemical Industries, both with first-quarter results, will complete the FTSE 100 showing. The drug group will inject an advance of around 13 per cent to £87m, driven by flu-season sales of the antibiotic Augmentin. Profits at the debt-laden ICI will slump some 60 per cent to £35m. Commodity chemicals are the main culprits. Part of the operations were sold to Huntsman of the US last week but the focus will be on further disposals.

The undercard will be active, with Debenhams likely to steal the show. The department store group, demerged from Burton a couple of years ago, will report flat interim profits at around £76m. Sales are still falling, but margin increases and the improving retail environment augur well for the future.

Results from DFS, the furniture maker run by the Conservative Party benefactor Graham Kirkham, are eagerly awaited to gauge whether the depressed sofa and beds market is heading for a recovery. Profits will be down to around £11m, from £18.2 last time round.

IN THE FIRST legal case in this country over "spamming" on the Internet, the online division of Virgin is suing a Surrey-based businessman who sent a quarter of a million unsolicited e-mails at a time.

Virgin Net says that Adrian Paris, trading as ProPhoto UK, launched a series of "bulk e-mails" last year that brought chaos to its computer systems and prompted thousands of complaints from recipients of the e-mails.

The practice of sending huge amounts of unsolicited e-mails, dubbed "spamming", has already led to several high profile court cases in the US. America OnLine (AOL), America's biggest Internet service provider (ISP), has fought a number of legal battles against spammers. But Virgin is the first such action in this country.

Virgin Net says that Mr Paris, of Camberley, Surrey, first sent out e-mails to "a very large number of persons" last July. Mr Paris was offering to sell a database of e-mail addresses, in quantities of 1 million to 10 million, with a purchase price of £15 to £105.

This "first bulk e-mail" prompted 100 complaints to Virgin Net, it says. Mr Paris sent an e-mail to Virgin Net apologising, and Virgin Net in turn wrote to him saying that such actions breached the terms and conditions of Mr Paris's e-mail internet account with Virgin.

Nevertheless, according to Virgin, Mr Paris went on to send out three further bulk e-mails, one to over a quarter of a million addresses. This prompted over a thousand complaints, it says. Virgin also claims that Mr Paris's spamming led other ISPs to refuse to pass on all e-mails emanating from Virgin Net customers, a process dubbed "blackholing".

Results from DFS, the furniture maker run by the Conservative Party benefactor Graham Kirkham, are eagerly awaited to gauge whether the depressed sofa and beds market is heading for a recovery. Profits will be down to around £11m, from £18.2 last time round.

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

pass, since Mr Paris used Virgin Net's computer system to carry out his spamming.

Virgin Net is an internet service provider launched by Richard Branson in November 1996. It provides services such as e-mail, web space and editorial services to over 160,000 subscribers. It recently scrapped its subscription fee.

A spokesman for Virgin Net said: "We've had some limited contact with Adrian Paris. We served a writ on him on Thursday night ... We feel we've got a good case, which deserves to be heard by the courts. We've got rather fed up with spamming and we know that a lot of our customers feel the same way."

The spokesman continued: "We want to send a clear message to spammers to desist. It's a nuisance issue for consumers and a reputational issue for us." One of Mr Paris's e-mails informed recipients how to send back e-mails themselves. "If people think they can make money out of sending bulk e-mails themselves, it becomes something like a pyramid selling scheme," said the spokesman.

AN EXETER soft drinks supplier has been jailed for 28 days for contempt of court following legal action by Coca-Cola and Schweppes, who alleged that he sold Coca-Cola containers filled with other manufacturers' cola syrup.

Last year the two drinks giants sued Karl Mabe, trading as K&M Syrups, for refilling Coca-Cola containers with other generic soft drink syrup and passing it off as the real thing to pubs and hotels in the West Country.

The companies got an

"Anton Pillar" order from the high Court in October to search Mr Mabe's premises in Devon for possible incriminating evidence.

When their representatives tried to search his premises Mr Mabe refused them entry. Last month Mr Justice Raitte described this as a "flagrant contempt of this court" and sentenced Mr Mabe to 28 days in jail.

A GROUP of eight American record companies have taken action to freeze assets of up to £1m held in a London bank account on behalf of Danny Jordan, a Florida businessman they accuse of CD piracy.

The eight companies, which include A&M, Capital Records, and Warner Communications, are already taking court action against Mr Jordan and a number of his companies in the courts in Florida.

It has emerged during the trial in America that Mr Jordan holds assets in a Bank of Scotland account. The companies, which also include BMG, Sony, MCA Records, PolyGram and Warner Brothers Records, have now launched an action in London to freeze the account, which they say holds up to £1m.

A GERMAN printing company is suing a British supplier of software, over the copyright to typefaces designed by the famous British graphic designer Neville Brody. Mindscape International of Great James Street, London, is being sued over its CD-Rom entitled PrintMaster Publishing Suite 7.0.

Heidelberg Druckmaschinen, a designer and licensor of typefaces based in Bad Homburg, Germany, and its subsidiary Linotype Library, are seeking an injunction to stop Mindscape using three of their typefaces, titled "Industria", "Insignia" and "Duc De Berry".

The first two typefaces were designed by Neville Brody for Linotype in 1989, while Duc De Berry was designed by a German, Professor Gottfried Pott, the following year, also for Linotype.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

A ROUND-UP OF SUNDAY BUSINESS STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

bankers Dresdner Kleinwort Benson for the club.

The Sunday Telegraph

■ Freeserve, the free Internet service set up by Dixons, the high street retailer, is suing rival AOL for malicious slander and falsehood. In a writ lodged in the High Court, Freeserve alleges that customers with CompuServe who phoned to cancel their subscriptions in order to switch to Freeserve were told that Freeserve's offer of free Internet access was temporary and that the service would eventually become fee-paying. CompuServe is owned by AOL.

■ Opposition has hardened to Branksome Hatch Leisure's bid for Silverstone among members of the British Racing Drivers' Club, which owns the motor racing circuit. Members, who include Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart, say they are irritated by the tone of an open letter by BHL's chief executive Nicola Foulston criticising a restructuring plan devised by

Michael Hardern, the builder turned carpet-bagger, is preparing to abandon his bid for election to the board of Britannia Building Society.

The Mail

■ Chancellor Gordon Brown faces criticism over why the Eu-

ropean Bank for Reconstruction and Development is pouring taxpayers' money into Russia despite having had to triple its bad debt provision for that country following last summer's massive bond default.

The governing board of the EBRD, made up of finance ministers from member countries, began its annual meeting in London yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

■ Royal Bank of Scotland will this week launch a fresh pitch for a £41bn merger with Barclays. RBS chief executive George Mathewson returns from skiing this week and plans a renewed attempt to woo Barclays, possibly by offering Sir Peter Middleton the chairmanship of the combined group and a fairer share-out of the top jobs.

■ Private Equity groups Cinven, KKR and CVC are vying for the £1.3bn automotive busi-

nesses of Invensys, the former BTR-Slebe.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

■ Reuters' employees in the US voted in favour of potential strike action over pay and conditions, threatening the British-based provider of news and financial information with its first strike in 20 years. Reuters said there would be no interruption of services as a result of any action by staff represented by the union, the Communications Workers of America, who account for around 25 per cent of the 2,300 Reuters US staff.

■ Motor distributor Inchcape will announce a £50m cash windfall to shareholders. The payment is from the proceeds of the disposal programme initiated by the chief executive Philip Cushing 12 months ago. Mr Cushing has said he will leave the company this summer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS RUKMINI THE ANNUAL General Meeting of The Royal United Kingdom Benevolent Association will be held at The Plaisterers' Hall, 100 Cornhill, London EC2 at 3.00pm on Monday 24th May 1999 to receive the report of the committee and the accounts for 1998 and to elect members of the committee and the auditors.

0800 216 350

Announcements

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on the
match
that had
everything



6 Doherty
eyes
the big
prize

11 Westwood
fulfils his
Eastern
promise



12 Chepchumba
record run
takes the
London
Marathon



19 April 1999

SPORT

Premiership: Tactical substitution backfires and costs Vialli's side valuable ground in championship race

Guppy punishes Chelsea

BY STEVE TONGUE

Chelsea 2
Leicester City 2

A point either way means little at this stage to Leicester, but their manager Martin O'Neill's delight was tempered only by a nasty injury to the defender Robert Ullathorne, who broke a leg in two places attempting to prevent Gianfranco Zola lobbing the first goal.

Conceding two goals in the last seven minutes to Leicester, four days after failing to hit the front by winning at Middlesbrough, appeared to justify Gianluca Vialli's pessimistic observations a month ago that the race would be won by Manchester United or Arsenal.

With his team deservedly leading 2-0, and about to move within one point of United, Vialli must have been prepared to modify that point of view, which had been put forward out of disappointment rather than devilishness following the unexpected home defeat by West Ham on 13 March. Then Leicester's delightfully old-fashioned left-winger, Steve Guppy, began to take advantage of Albert Ferrer's removal in a tactical substitution. Ian Marshall - sent on as an extra-attacker - started winning everything in the air and Chelsea's much vaunted defence suddenly looked a flimsy affair.

In the 83rd minute Matt Elliott, who had been credited, against his wishes, with an own goal to put Chelsea two up, forced Ferrer's replacement, Michael Duberry, into a similar embarrassment.

Five minutes later Guppy had them whooping in Stretford and Highbury as well as Leicester by curling in an equaliser. It left Chelsea only one point in front of Arsenal ahead of the champions' home game against Wimbledon tonight, and three adrift of United, who also have a game to spare.

After the match, Vialli kept his thoughts to himself, again sending his temporary assistant Ray Wilkins to explain the tactical change and the team's collapse. "With Marshall coming on, we felt it would be difficult to defend set-plays and thought Michael Duberry would give us aerial ability," Wilkins said. "We had the quality to have held out, but we defended far too deep. They went route one and we didn't cope with it. It makes it very difficult for us now with five games left. We'd have to win all five and hope the others slip up. But they've got some tough games."

Playing at home to Wimbledon does not come into that category at present and Chelsea should be prepared for another setback this evening before setting off to Spain for the second leg of the European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against Real Mallorca.

Guppy 2 (30, 1-0); Elliott 2g (68, 2-0); Duberry 2g (81, 2-1); Ferrer 1g (75, 2-1); De Geoye, Ferrer (Duberry, 75); Leboeuf, Doherty, Petrescu, Morris (Marshall, 70); Ullathorne, Guppy (Ferrer, 68); Gurr (Ferrer, 70). Substitutes not used: Forster, Hitchcock (Kasmir, 31), Sinclair, Elliott, Impey, Savage, Lemon, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Doherty, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Doherty, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Miller, Fenton, Arphey (84).

Goals: Zola (30) 1-0; Elliott 2g (68) 2-0; Doherty 2g (81) 2-1; De Geoye, Ferrer (Duberry, 75); Leboeuf, Doherty, Petrescu, Morris (Marshall, 70); Ullathorne, Guppy (Ferrer, 68); Gurr (Bogdon, 70). Substitutes not used: Forster, Hitchcock (Kasmir, 31), Sinclair, Elliott, Impey, Savage, Lemon, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Doherty, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Doherty, Gurr (Bogdon, 70), Miller, Fenton, Arphey (84).



Gianfranco Zola lobs Chelsea into a 1-0 lead in yesterday's drawn Premiership match against Leicester City at Stamford Bridge

David Ashdown

Football: 2-2 ■ Graham Kelly: 2 ■ The Week: 2 ■ Tennis: 3 ■ Bocce: 1 ■ Boxing: 3 ■ Cricket: 2 ■ Rugby: 1 ■

14 year old long jumper lands in Florida.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 19 April 1999

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 19 April 1999

Pahars an unlikely saviour for Saints

IN THE increasingly eclectic world of the Premiership, no-one thought it at all odd that a Latvian called Marjans should be the toast of The Dell on Saturday night.

Mark Hughes' first goal for Southampton, after 31 blanks – was a surprise. Blackburn gaining a point on their bogey ground, that was also a surprise. But Marjans Pahars, 22 years old (going on 10, to judge from his size and looks), gaining Southampton a draw within eight minutes of his home debut? Nothing odd in that. Southampton are used to miraculous escapes. They are the only team to have avoided relegation under Alan Ball's management.

Normally Matt Le Tissier is their saviour but with his omnipotence fading the Southampton manager, David Jones, is having to search in ever-more unlikely places. Thus the purchase of Pahars, whose point rewarded Southampton's doggedness on and off the field. While his goal capped a spirited recovery from 3-1 down with 30 minutes to go, he was only available because Jones made three attempts to win him a work permit before finally succeeding.

However, another miracle may be required if Southampton are to stay up: an away win. They have taken

four points away from The Dell in six months (three of them at Blackburn, the other at Nottingham Forest) and have lost their last seven on the road. Their home form (17 points from 21) remains solid but, with two of their remaining four matches away, they will probably have to win at either Derby next Saturday or Wimbledon on 8 May. Or possibly, given their poor goal difference, both.

It is often thought to be easier to gain points away from home these days. Grounds tend to be less intimidating and more homogenous



GLENN
MOORE

Southampton
Blackburn Rovers

3
3

while teams are better at the counter-attack, perhaps helped by better pitches.

Saturday's Premiership results highlighted the supposed trend with four away wins to two at home. However, a comparison with results 10 and 20 years ago in the top division does not bear this out. This season there have been 146 home wins (44 per cent) and 83 away wins (25 per cent) in 311 Premiership matches.

Ten years ago 29 per cent of matches were away wins (41 per cent home), the same percentage as a decade earlier (45 per cent home).

Indeed, only one Premiership team, Forest, and two Nationwide League sides, Stoke (who are in a new ground) and Brighton (who play home games at Gillingham), have gained a higher percentage of their points away from home this season.

Home form is certainly important to Southampton whose ground, because of its cramped environment, is regarded as one of the most intimidating in the Premiership. Away, however, they are prone to folding as soon as they go behind. Jones, who said he has tried everything to get a result away from home, hoped

that the fact that his team were twice able to recover from being behind on Saturday will now encourage them on their travels.

The irony is that they need to stay up to finance the building of a new ground, though chairman Rupert Lowe insisted the re-location would go ahead even if relegation was suffered. "It would," he warned, "be more difficult."

This appeared to suggest less finance would be available to spend on the team, not that Jones has had millions to lavish on his polyglot side in any case. More worrying is the prospect that the better players – James Beattie, Paul Jones, Hassan

Kachloul – might have to be sold. It is not as if Le Tissier could still bring in £10m.

Southampton, whose team is more than the sum of its parts, obviously hope it does not come to that but their immediate future does not look good.

For all the euphoria at their comeback on Saturday it was still two home points dropped – and one allowed to their closest rivals at the bottom.

It could have been better for Blackburn only just survived a series of late scrambles after Pahars' equaliser but it should have been worse.

Southampton's defending was atrocious, Ashley Ward, running onto Kevin Gallacher's flick, was unable to evade challenges from Claus Lundekvam and Scott Hiley before slipping a weak shot past Neil Moss. Then, after Chris Marsden had headed in Jason Dodd's cross, Darren Peacock, who had twice wasted chances to clear that attack, was allowed to make amends by escaping Lundekvam to side-foot in a corner.

With poor concentration by David Hughes enabled Jason McAteer to head in Jason McAteer's cross it seemed over but Blackburn looked wobbly too and, once Hughes

turned in Beattie's low cross, the equaliser was almost inevitable. With the crowd roaring the Saints on, Dodd hoisted a long ball forward, Beattie nodded it down and Pahars beaded in.

Blackburn, despite having spent £23m since last May, thus remain deep in trouble. They, too, travel badly but their next trip is as vital as this was: it is to Charlton on 1 May.

Injuries have wrecked Brian Kidd's attempts to field a consistent side and, while there is no danger of his being sacked should they drop, his continued restructuring would be a lot more difficult in the First Division. However, unless Jack

Walker pulled out they would probably return, while for Saints and Charlton the fear is that a drop would be permanent. That knowledge could make the difference for one of them.

Goals: Ward (14) D-1; Marsden (22) 1-1; Peacock (18) 1-2; Pahars (16) 3-1.

Southampton (4-3-1-2): Moss; Hiley (Pahars, 78); Lundekvam, Benali, Collett (O Hughes, 1-1); Kachloul, Dodd, Peacock, Le Tissier; O'Connor (Beattie, 1-1); Marsden (substitutes not used: Bridge, Stensgaard (64)).

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Flann McTeer, Peacock, Henchos (Broome, 1-1), Davidson; Gillett, Simeone, McAteer, McAteer, Gallacher (Davies, 70); Ward. Substitutes not used: Marcellin, Flores (68).

Referee: G. Barber (Tring). Bookings: Peacock, McAteer, Gillett.

Man of the match: McAteer. Attendance: 15,209.

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Positive side to Charlton's lot

THIS BUSINESS of taking one game at a time is all very well for those hardened old pros. For the rest of us it is the time of season to take the whole lot at once: scanning the fixtures for the last day as feverishly as for the next day, calculating targets and totals and estimating the most favourable opposition to play.

Even a week ago, Leeds United would not have come into the latest category, as they were hunting a new club record of eight successive victories, but two weary performances in six days have confirmed that Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea need not fear forthcoming encounters against them. With David O'Leary's youngsters, on his own admission, hitting the wall a few miles short of the finishing tape, Liv-

erpool earned a comfortable point at Elland Road last Monday and Charlton left The Valley sorely disappointed at not having avenged a 4-1 drubbing in November.

Reduced to 10 men after Richard Rufus's debatable dismissal in the 65th minute, they maintained such dominance that Leeds supporters behind the goal their team were supposed to be attacking howled plaintively but vainly: "Attack, attack, attack!" O'Leary's men have been doing just that, with admirable gusto, since he took charge of them a month before the previous Charl-

ton game. Now their legs have gone and a Champions' League place is disappearing off into the distance.

David Hopkin and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, the captain and leading scorer respectively, pulled up lame in the first half an hour on Saturday and there were no fresh faces, or legs, to compensate. "The youngsters are tired," O'Leary said. "I've got the basis of a wonderful young team here, but when you look at the three teams ahead of us, their strength is quality in depth. The bonus today was that we got a point, because we were fortunate."

He was right there. Most of the quality came from Charlton, who responded to their manager's criticism of last week's performance at Mid-

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rival in distress. Only a heavy defeat would drop them into the bottom three again before Saturday's trip to Evertton, after which a home match with Blackburn looms dauntingly large for both sides.

But, one match at a time, as Alan Curbishley would doubtless insist. "If they give that level of performance and work as hard as that, we're in with a shout," he observed.

Hesitancy in front of the third-choice goalkeeper Andy Pettersson five minutes later allowed Jonathon Woodgate an equaliser, and Paul Mortimer slipping slightly as he ran up to take a second-half penalty, passed up two invaluable points.

Mortimer, if he is given another chance ahead of John Barnes, will have the opportunity of making amends at home to Tottenham tomorrow in what is effectively Charlton's game in hand on most of their

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Smith remains calm despite the pressure

WALTER SMITH was struggling to make himself heard. Alarm bells were ringing all around him. It was not exactly a novel experience for a manager of Everton Football Club, as Smith has discovered since he swapped his trophy hunter's job in Govan for the Goodison life.

It was unusual, though, to see a boss of the boy in hue unflustered by an audible signal of distress.

Smith talked on and on, and with hope in his heart, amid the clangor din in the Newcastle press room. It proved to be a false alarm. The only fire at St James' Park on Saturday was in the bellies of Smith's players.

If they keep the flame burning, the latest alarm about Everton's first-class status may prove to be a false one too. They might even earn the luxury of a final day fixture with nothing but pride at stake, for them at least.

Dave Jones is sure to have more in his South Coast locker on 16 May than Ruud Gullit did on Saturday. His players, having paraded in their Wembley kit on Thursday, embarked on their FA Cup final preparations in the emperor's new clothes.

Their shortcomings were evident from the moment the team sheet arrived. Duncan Ferguson, despite his impressive return at Old Trafford the previous Sunday, was deemed unfit for action.

Being accustomed to wearing his heart on his sleeve, and still possessing an Everton tattoo on his left forearm, it was probably just as well that the Gladys Street icon did not appear in black and white. It was just as well, too, for Everton that naked ambition was difficult to detect among Ferguson's new colleagues.

That much was clear after 42 seconds, the time it took Everton to find the back of the Newcastle net. David Beharrell's hesitation allowed Kevin Campbell to shoot his first goal, though the 19-year-old debutant was not the only one caught napping. Scott Gemmill and Don Hutchison having been granted the midfield space and time they needed to contrive the opening.

Campbell profited from similar laxity two minutes before the break, turning in Francis Jeffers' low ball from the right thanks to Shay Given's slow motion dive. On loan to

Newcastle United

Everton

Everton from Trabzonspor, Campbell now jointly tops their Premiership scoring chart for the season, joining Ibrahim Bakayoko, Danny Cadamateri and Ferguson on four goals.

At the other end, Thomas Mythe had been Everton's saviour in the 32nd minute when David Weir was penalised for handball and the Norwegian dived to keep out Alan Shearer's spot kick. Ultimately, however, the Toffees could afford to come temporarily unstuck eight minutes from time. Shearer beatting Mythe from the spot after David Unsworth was punished for tugging the shirt of the Newcastle captain.

They hissed at them as they had started. Gemmill lashing a 20-yard volley past Given. It sealed Everton's first win on Tyneside since Boxing Day 1986 when the team that Howard Kendall built went on to win their second title in three seasons.

The seasonal target this time is more modest. "If we win our two home games we should be safe," Smith said.

Goals: Campbell (1) 0-1, Gemmill (38) 1-1; Gordon (32) 1-2.

Newcastle United (4-3-1-2): Given, Griffin, Beale, Hughes, Barron; Lee, Kerslake, Speare, Maricic (Saha, 55); Shearer, Kerslake (Solano, 75). Substitutes not used: Pearce, Anderson, Harper (16).

Everton (3-5-2): Mythe; Shore, Marson, Unsworth, New, Hutchison, Dacourt, Gemmill, Ball, Campbell (Bakayoko, 62); Jeffers (Cadamateri, 82); Substitutes not used: Ward, Degen, Gerhard (19).

Referee: G. Poll (Tring). Bookings: Newcastle: Lee, Saha, Gemmill. Everton: Shore, Gemmill. Man of the match: Mythe. Attendance: 36,775.

TODAY'S NUMBER

8

The number of footballers sent off playing for St Aidan's against St Benedictus in the Irish Permanent Metropolitan Under-17 League on Friday. The referee was forced to abandon the match.



Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, directing operations on Saturday

Mark Thompson/Allsport

Strachan's folly of keeping his keeper

SOME OF the ingredients, including the scoreline, were uncannily similar to those at the epic FA Cup replay at nearby Villa Park 72 hours earlier. But while Highfield Road witnessed a player scoring after running at a retreating defence from his own half, plus an injured goalkeeper soldiering on, the post-match debate centred on judgement and handicaps rather than genius and heroism.

Gordon Strachan is justifiably revered in Coventry for the passion he brings to the task of managing a club whose image beyond the city boundaries is largely negative. However, the sight of the wounded Magnus Hedman tottering round his six-yard box, and the Sky Blues doing likewise above the relegation zone, led many of the Scot's bewilderment devotees to remonstrate with him.

In normal circumstances, Steve Ogrizovic would probably have been summoned from the bench, ready and eager to reclaim his place, after Hedman suffered a debilitating hip injury with less than three minutes played. Sod's Law dictated that the 41-year-old goalkeeper could only watch from the back row as Middlesbrough belatedly took advantage of Strachan's decision to leave the Swedish international on

hope that Coventry might hold out and perhaps score themselves. But when Vladimir Kinder was allowed to run 50 yards and shoot past a statue Hedman from 22 yards, albeit more tamely than Ryan Giggs last Wednesday, the gamble finally paid off.

Gary McAllister's well-worked equaliser, due reward for his tireless prompting, appeared to have given Coventry a valuable nudge towards safety before Dean Gordon's winner eight minutes from time. While the wing-back's angled volley was vicious enough to have beaten Hedman at his finest, the fact was that he was again rooted to the spot.

Strachan's volatile nature and articulate manner are often a refreshing change from the stock ripostes of his profession, but his



THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Harris insures gamble pays off at Millwall

FOOTBALL IS good at launching young men on the fast track to fame but the rise of Millwall's Neil Harris has been especially meteoric.

A little more than a year ago the 21-year-old front-runner was playing a full part-time while working in the City as an insurance assessor with a Japanese company. Then Millwall came in with a £10,000 offer to Cambridge City for his services.

Yesterday, Harris was scarcely able to believe his good fortune when he lined up in a Wembley final as Millwall

lost a close-run Auto Wind-screens Shield final to Wigan Athletic for the Auto Wind-screens Shield.

"My aim at the start of the season was only to win a place in the first team," Harris said. "I certainly never envisaged going to Wembley."

Harris has been such a success at the New Den that he is close to becoming the first Millwall player since Ted Sheringham to finish with 20 goals in a season. His tally for the Second Division side currently stands at 18.

The Shield final has proved

Wembley's enduring capacity for attracting fair-weather fans. According to some reports, Millwall sold up to 48,000 tickets, more than six times what constitutes a decent crowd at the New Den.

Harris himself can account for a good few of those, with more than 120 family and friends planning to be there to watch him, including many from his personal "fan clubs" at Cambridge and another former club, Maldon Town.

Many were paying guests, as his two complimentary tickets went to mum and dad.

KEY NUMBERS

8
The number of times Blackburn have thrown away an advantage after leading this season.

32
The number of games it took Mark Hughes to break his Southampton goalscoring duck.

I TOLD YOU SO

"I can't see us becoming complacent... We don't like losing terries"

Trevor Francis, manager of promotion contenders Birmingham, who promptly lost 1-0 at home to Wolves.

Hartlepool grateful to 'invisible' backers

FOR GOOD reason football fans tend to be fearful when the fortunes of their club fall into the hands of financial backers who have few links with the area or the club.

But Hartlepool United have every reason to be grateful to their "invisible" owners. During a season in which relegation from the Football League - after 79 years and 11 re-elections - has become an increasing threat, Hartlepool's backers, the Aberdeen-based firm Increased Oil Recovery Limited, have come up with vital investment in the team.

It was their money that enabled the former manager Mick Tait to offer 38-year-old Peter Beardsley a staggering £6,000-a-week to bring his enduring class to the Third Di-

vision. And it was their cash that enabled the new manager, Chris Turner to splash out £150,000 on two strikers, Gary Jones and Chris Freestone, to solve an inability to score goals.

On Saturday, it paid off as Hartlepool achieved a 3-0 victory over bottom-of-the-table Scarborough that all but guarantees their survival. Two of the goals came from Freestone - and both were made by precision passes from the irrepressible Beardsley.

Beardsley ought to have a job for life at Victoria Park should he want it. But, professional to the last, he takes nothing for granted. "I came here for the last manager," he said. "Chris Turner may want to go down a different road."

Missing... making it... and mistaken

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

KEVIN CAMPBELL
Preston

TIM SHERWOOD
Tottenham Hotspur

DANNY MILLS
Charlton

GARETH SOUTHGATE
Aston Villa

ROBERTO DI MATTEO
Chelsea

SHAKA HISLOP
West Ham United

JAAP STAM
Manchester United

TEDDY SHERINGHAM
Manchester United

ROY KEANE
Manchester United

MICHAEL BALL
Everton

STEVE GUPPY
Leicester City

MISSING

Manager of the week: Alex Ferguson. Performance of the week: Sutton v ... only they make it pay as passionately as at the Dell.

RUMOURS

Sutton 'top target in Spurs' £20m spree'

THE TOTTENHAM manager, George Graham, has been told he can spend £20m, according to the *News of the World*, and is set to dominate the summer transfer market.

The paper names Blackburn's Chris Sutton, Aston Villa defender Ugo Ehiogu and Wolves starlet Robbie Keane as the top targets. The *Sunday People*, meanwhile, says Tottenham, encouraged by reports that Alex Ferguson is strapped for cash, are ready to go back to Manchester United with a £10m offer for Ole Gunnar Solskjær; whom they failed to land last summer, and are also watching Sampdoria's Vincenzo Montella. Furthermore, the *Sunday Mirror* reports Tottenham's interest in Liverpool's Paul Ince and the Dutchman William Korsten, who last week rejected the chance to stay with Leeds.

Liverpool, the Mirror says, may let Ince go for as little as £1m rather than receive nothing when his contract expires next year. Fulham are also said to be interested as the Liverpool manager, Gérard Houllier, said by the *Mail on Sunday* to have turned down a return to Paris St-Germain, plans to rebuild his side. The *Mail* says Houllier has set his sights on the Czech forward Vladimir Smicer, valued by Lens at £25m, as part of a £22m spree. Meanwhile, the *People* suggests, would be at the head of any queue for Fowler.

Meanwhile, the *Mirror* reckons that ageing Arsenal full-backs Nigel Winterburn and Lee Dixon could be bound for newly-promoted Fulham, along with Tottenham's Les Ferdinand and Ince too.

Elsewhere, the *Mirror* says Stuart Pearce is favourite to succeed Ron Atkinson at Nottingham Forest.

SEEN AND HEARD

GORDON'S LAMENT: "We don't get penalties. If an opposition defender went at one of my players with a mache, cut his head off, dug a hole and buried him, we might. Otherwise - no" - The Coventry manager, Gordon Strachan, asked about a spot-kick claim against Middlesbrough.

REDKNAPP'S REPONSE: "Paolo di Canio is an outstanding talent and anyone who says otherwise is a fool" - West Ham's Harry Redknapp replies to those who questioned his wisdom in signing the disgraced Italian.

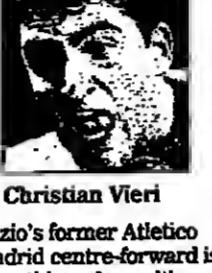
NO LAUGHING MATTER: "Boozy (Mark Bosnich) thinks he's a comedian - trouble is, no one thinks he's very funny" - the Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, on his goalkeeper's tasteless mocking of Liverpool's Robbie Fowler.



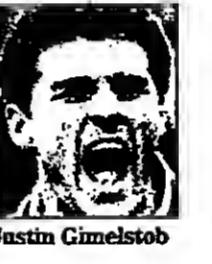
SCOTT TAYLOR
LEICESTER CITY



PHILIP MULRYNE
NORWICH CITY



Christian Vieri
Lazio's former Atletico Madrid centre-forward is something of a multi-national Italian by nationality; he was raised in Australia. What's more, it has been pointed out, he bears a startling resemblance to an American Davis Cup tennis player.



Justin Gimelstob

Having escaped from the Old Trafford shadows with a £500,000 move from Manchester United to Norwich last month, the 21-year-old Northern Ireland international midfielder is already making a big impact in East Anglia. He has also found his shooting boots, grabbing his second goal in four First Division games against Tranmere on Saturday.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

THIRD DIVISION

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

ITALIAN LEAGUE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

FOOTBALL RESULTS SHIELD FINAL

SECOND DIVISION

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

FOOTBALL RESULTS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

FOOTBALL RESULTS

SECOND DIVISION

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

FOOTBALL RESULTS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Rogers' late goal silences the majority

BY LINDSAY HARRISON

IT WAS as close to a golden goal as can be scored inside regulation time. Paul Rogers, who starred in Sutton United's FA Cup victory over Coventry 10 years ago, left it until the third minute of stoppage time before drilling in the decisive strike that enabled Wigan Athletic, this competition's first winners at Wembley, in 1985, to send Millwall, with their massive majority, home with losers' medals.

A month after Tottenham overcame Leicester in added time of the Worthington Cup final, Wigan, in their new golden away kit, prefaced their impending move to the £25, 25,000-capacity JJB Stadium with a morale-boosting Wembley triumph in the competition cynics tend to label the Mickey Mouse Cup.

Ray Mathias's team will now hope this victory inspires them in a demanding Second Division finale in which they start nine points behind the play-off zone and have three games in hand.

"I was delighted to see that shot go in," the Wigan manager said. "It was very hard work for us - Millwall made it very hard work. But the champagne's on ice. The players have got to be good boys tonight and go straight home." And then to Northampton on Tuesday.

Keith Stevens, who has done such a good job in his first year since stepping up from Millwall playing legend to manager, said: "It wasn't great football

but we worked our socks off. It was just a horrible time to concede a goal."

"It's good for the club to have nearly 50,000 supporters coming to Wembley and I thought they were a credit to it because they conducted themselves well; they were in good voice and good humour."

Millwall are left to ruminate

on a promising season. Their

young side - five of whom pro-

gressed from the youth ranks,

while 18-year-old Neil Harris has

enjoyed a fine bedding-in peri-

od following his signing last

year from the Dr Martens

League side Cambridge City -

have indicated they may be

ready for a promotion chal-

lenge next time around.

Wigan, who visited Wembley

for the 1973 FA Trophy final, los-

ing to Scarborough, were not

relishing the prospect of two

hours in the sun, though 90 min-

utes of fame does not go amiss

ahead of their difficult end-of-

season agenda.

The first half was a wash-out,

the teams cancelling each other

out and showing greater fear of

failure than will to win. The sec-

ond half, thankfully, became a

more hot-blooded affair. Simon

Haworth swivelled to shoot just

over for Wigan; Harris kicked

the ball away from Pat McGib-

bon and succeeding in toe-end-

ing the ball underneath Roy

Carroll's despairing dive at the

other end. But Colin Greenall

appeared to save Wigan, clear-

ing the ball off the line.

As the final 10 minutes began

there was a loud penali-

ty shout at each end. Firstly

Andy Liddell, Wigan's former

Barnsley midfielder, was muscled

down to the ground by

Steven Reid. No whistle. Then,

as if to level matters out, Clive

Wilkes again kept his pea dry

when Harris, having skilfully

weaved his way past one chal-

lenge, appeared to be fouled by

Greenall.

Liddell had his luck when he

appeared to control Carl Brad-

shaw's pass up the right wing

with his hand before crossing

from the right hand edge of the

penalty area. Stuart Nethercott

headed out but only as far as

Rogers, who muscled aside

Tim Cahill before driving home

the most memorable goal of his

career, and only his second

since signing for £50,000 from

Notts County two years ago. "It

was a great time to score," said

the 34-year-old midfielder. "I

didn't really fancy extra-time."

He just made sure he got a gold-

goal in first."

Goals: Rogers (90+1),

Millwall: Carroll, Bradshaw,

Wilkes, Jones, O'Neill, Liddle, Haworth, Barlow (Lee, 89), Substitutes not used: Jones, Green.

Wigan: Carroll, Bradshaw,

Wilkes, Jones, O'Neill, Liddle, Haworth, Barlow (Lee, 89), Substitutes not used: Jones, Green.

Referee: C. Miller (Gloucestershire).

Bookings: Millwall: Newman, Lynn.

Wigan: McGibbons, Bradshaw, O'Neill.

Attendance: 55,349.



Wigan's Kevin Sharp hampers Millwall's Paul Ifill at Wembley yesterday. Allsport

Scarborough get that sinking feeling Ronaldo's old colleague revives Bolton hopes

BY DAVID CLOUGH

COLIN ADDISON still thinks he can save Scarborough from themselves and excommunication from the Nationwide League. And Peter Beardsley would dearly love to be 17 again.

The difference is that, the moments that matter, the 33-year-old Beardsley can still do a passable impression of the player he once was.

Scarborough, on the other hand, with only 12 years of League history to fall back on, continue to perpetuate a depressingly recurring horizontal theme. Having stumbled their way to the bottom of the Third Division 14 weeks ago they remain seriously disadvantaged, having finished a very poor second in the battle of the Nationwide League's most endangered species.

However, in the best traditions of crisis management,

Beardsley, playing out time while looking for a coaching opening, created with two quite special free-kicks, Chris Freestone's first-half goals.

It mattered little that from this point on Beardsley resigned himself to watching the ball sail to and fro over his head. From his point of view it was mission accomplished long before Paul Baker's stoppage-time goal hauled Hartlepools five points clear of the bottom.

The former England man does admit it is a lot harder, though, playing at this level. Beardsley said: "You touch the ball once and you might not see it again for 10 minutes because it is up there, sailing back and forwards."

Yet while Beardsley was looking skywards, Scarborough

have been able to put meat on the bones of his survival claim.

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With Beardsley at his disposal, the recently recruited Scarborough manager might

players like their captain, Jamie Hoyland, were looking down and feeling down. Hoyland, 33, was booked for pointing out to referee Alan Wiley that the free-kick decision which gave Freestone the first of his goals was the sort which could cost footballers their jobs.

Hoyle, who began his career at Manchester City 16 years ago, still has 15 months left on his contract to run but wonders aloud whether that agreement will be worth the paper it is written on if Scarborough go the way of Doncaster, now languishing in the Conference.

Hoyle said: "I have been relegated twice before with Sheffield United and Burnley but, apart from the embarrassment of it all, it would be devastating if it happened again."

"I had always planned to play in the Football League

until I was 35, but suddenly a trap-door is opening up."

"The frightening part is that I haven't a clue what I would do if we did go out of the League."

Contrasting, survival for Hartlepools would be a feather in the cap of their new manager Chris Turner, who is even hinting at promotion next time round.

Funny how objectives can change. This time last year Scarborough were involved in the promotion play-offs.

Goals: Freestone (26) 1-0, Freestone (41)

2-0, Baker (pen) 30) 3-0.

Hartlepools: United (3-5-2), Hollund, Ingum, Barron, Sridhar, Knowles, Hulme, McLean, Beardsley, Baker (0), Lello, 3-21, Freestone, Jones (Baker, 84), Substitute not used: Obilele (59).

Scarborough (3-5-2): McNaughton, Hoyland, McAuley, Carr (Russell, 45), Russell, 3-21, McLean, Beardsley, Baker (0), 3-21, Baker (pen) 30) 3-0.

Referee: A. Wiley (Staffordshire).

Bookings: Hartlepools: Snodder, Miles, Dingley, Scarborough: Carr, Hoyland, Worrall.

Man of the match: Beardsley.

Attendance: 5,096.

Milan maintain the pressure on Lazio

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

BY CHRIS ENDEAN

ZVONIMIR BOBAN and Oliver Bierhoff both scored twice as Milan won 5-1 at Udinese yesterday to close to within a point of the Italian Serie A leaders, Lazio.

Boban and Bierhoff had netted two apiece, while Mariano Amoroso hit Udinese's consolation goal.

On Saturday Juventus gained revenge for two successive defeats to Lazio in Turin, despite a shaky start with Christian Vieri hitting the post in the second minute and having a 21st-minute effort disallowed.

The match turned on the failure of Luca Marchegiani, the Lazio goalkeeper, to stop a harmless-looking first-half shot.

Viali's support for Rix

Whatever the problems

Paul Merson may have, the

club will support him 100 per-

cent," Villa's company secre-

tary, Steve Stride, said yester-

day.

Rangers gave a debut to

Claudio Reyna, their American

international signed for £25,000

earlier in the season by

Rangers, who made his former

club pay. He created time and

space for himself on the right

before floating a precise cross

for Iain Anderson, whose free

header defeated Stefan Klos in

the Rangers goal.

Dundee went in ahead at half time, but the scoreline was no reflection of Rangers' domination and it took them just four minutes of the second half to draw level. A Jorg Albertz corner from the left found the defender Tony Vidmar, whose

header found its way through a crowd of players and into the net.

Wallace then fired wide and Van Bronckhorst had an effort well saved by Robert Douglas in the Dundee goal.

But victory was secured at a

price for Larsson, who went to

hospital after the match for an

X-ray on a suspected broken rib.

The Swede, who on Tuesday signed a new four-year contract said to be worth £1.3m a year, was the target for some heavy treatment by Motherwell during the game.

Six of their players were booked whilst Larsson was involved in an incident in the 38th minute when he appeared to stamp on Michel Doesburg, leaving the Motherwell player unable to continue.

Elsewhere, third-placed Kil-

marnock continued their push

BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

Mick Doohan: The Thunder From Down Under
by Matt Oxley
Haynes, £14.99
hardback

DOOHAN THE
dominant has
motorcycling's
blue ribbon
grand prix
500cc series in
his now size-
able pocket.
Five straight
world championships, and with-
in a lobbed can of Four-X of
Giacomo Agostini's 65 victories
and yet the insuperable Aussie
still cuts an unloved, aloof figure
in Britain. More thunder than
thunder, to some. They go off the
Richter Scale. Down Under when Doohan wheels his Honda
NSR on to a race track, but he
has yet to emulate the acclaim
that greets Carl Fogarty, Britain's triple world Superbike champion, in this country.

And it is not national prejudice. Kevin Schwantz, a Texan headbanger of a world champion
was hugely popular here, until
too many slides down the con-
crete carpet and the crippling of
another American great, Wayne
Rainey, proved a physiological
barrier too far.

Perhaps that is a clue. Doohan may appear too detached, too focused, to woo the
European racing public (not
that he would care particularly).
Which is a shame, because the
man is a decent, honest, talented
rider who deserves his place in
the sport's pantheon.

So Matt Oxley's matey appraisal provides a timely hit of
spirit and polish to the 33-year-
old's sheen too pun intended.
From mad Mick, the laid-back
dirt track racer from Surfers
Paradise, to prince Michael of
Monaco, a two-wheeled mil-
lionaire with a Lear Jet on
standby, Doohan's tale of rise -
and the fall at Assen that nearly
cost him a leg - grips as keenly
as a freshly warmed Dunlop.

Why is he such a forbidding
monomaniac? Perhaps that ad-
vanced in 1992 (surgeons had to
weld his legs together tempo-
rarily to save the damaged limb)
enhanced Doohan's realisa-
tion that winning races is a
risky addiction he is willing to
pursue with only a modest re-
gard for personal safety.

Doohan is also an adept practi-
tioner of pit-time mind games,
dealing out mental anguish to
pretenders. Not that he needs
to; he is still the fastest man on
two wheels. However he can ap-
pear curmudgeonly to those
outside his inner circle. This is
because, as Oxley pinpoints,
he's a bad loser - and that's what
makes him such a great winner.

Thanks to Oxley's portrait -
enhanced by sparkling photo-
graphs - there is no reason
why we should not embrace
Doohan as one of sport's true
heroes - and a decent bloke, too.
ANDREW MARTIN

TOP TEN BOOKS

1 *Hillsborough: The Truth*. Phil Cor-
ton (Mainstream, paperback, £9.99)
2 *Hooligan - 30 Years of Hool-*
ing (Hart King and Marion Knight (Mainstream
paperback, £7.99)
3 *1998 Cricket Annual 1999*, edit-
ed by Bill Frindall (Headline, paperback,
£4.99)
4 *The Trouble with Millwall - The*
Lion Roars, edited by Paul Casella (Fro-
ntline Publishing, paperback, £8.99)
5 *50 Years of Cricket 1949-99*, (Racing
Post, paperback, £6.99)
6 *Reds In The Hood*. Terry Christian
(André Deutsch, hardback, £14.99)
7 *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*
1999, edited by Michael Enright (John
Wiley, hardback, £30.99)
8 *Images of Waugh - A Cricketer's
Journeys*. Steve Waugh (HarperSports,
paperback, £9.99)
9 *The Cricketers' Who's Who 1999*,
selected by Michael Queen Anne
(Press, paperback, £12.99)
10 *Almanacca Illustrata Del Calcio*
'99, edited by Armando Beltramini (Panini,
hardback, £16.99)
Compiled by SportsPages. 94-95 Chur-
chill Road, London N17 2AG. 96-97
St Anns Square, Manchester, M16 1RZ
8530. www.sportspages.co.uk



Concentration on the future replaces reflection on past glory as Ken Doherty has put in hours and hours of practice in his fight to regain a world title which brought such deep satisfaction

Eric Whitehead

Anguish fires Doherty to steely resolve in Sheffield

FOR EVERY winner there is a loser, and one stares bleakly out of BBC Television's promotion for sport on its channels this month. Amid the fists, smiles, and tears of exultation, the camera focuses on eyes confronting the other impostor. As Barry Davies once said in commentary: "Just look at his face. Just look at his face."

Ken Doherty is the spectre at this feast of triumphalism, a man caught as he is being introduced to desperate disappointment. You do not need the context, you need to know nothing about snooker; the expression says everything you need to know: a cherished thing has been taken. The picture is a study of hurt being digested with dignity.

The impression was not false. Every snooker player craves to be world champion, but Doherty gave the impression of relishing it more, and to have his prize wrested from his weary hands by John Higgins last year created a lover's void. A year of living famously was over.

Famously with a capital F. Doherty, a native of Dublin, was swept along by a tide of excitement in his native Ireland when he took the Embassy World Championship in 1997. The swell was enough to take him and his trophy from Dublin's Lansdowne Road, to Old Trafford, Downing Street and, it seemed at one time, every opening of a supermarket or a bottle in the Emerald Isle.

It had to come to an end - if only for his wellbeing - but the party came to its real halt only when Doherty finished one match short of becoming the first modern champion to retain the title at the first attempt. Cold disappointment came first, then anti-climax, then reality.

"It was really hard giving the trophy back," Doherty, 29, said. "Really hard. Ireland does not have that many world champions, so the adulation for me you wouldn't believe. I enjoyed every minute of it. I'd had such a great year, so it was difficult

to come to terms with when it was all over."

Doherty was always likely to experience a dip, and his play at the start of the season was hangover sluggish. Since January he has reached the final of the Masters and the Malta Grand Prix, but his provincial ranking of seventh, three places lower than his seeding at the 1997-98 season.

"There was a reaction," Ian Doyle, his manager, said. "There's always a period after you've lost the world championship where it affects you, and it doesn't matter how many times I tell him 'you were world champion, nobody will ever be able to take that away from you'. I think there's an automatic focusing on the Crucible at the end of the season."

As he has not won a tournament for two years, Doherty's prospects do not look particularly good on paper; but they were hardly dripping with promise two years ago, when he arrived in Sheffield with question

marks about his commitment and even Doyle describing him as "lazy".

He had been beaten in the first round of the British Open and, before that, had been routed 6-1 by Steve Davis on home soil in the Irish Masters. So it was in an urgent search for form, as much as wishing to prove Doyle wrong, that he spent seven hours a day practising in Ilford in the build-up to the world championship. Seventeen days later he defeated Hendry in the final.

He was fresh in 1997 and he is not mentally battered by too many big matches this time. "I'm really looking forward to it," Doherty said. "It's a confidence boost to go to Sheffield knowing you have been to the final in the last two years, and you can be relaxed about the place and soak up the atmosphere."

"Last year I was aware that no

first time champion had gone back to the Crucible again and won it, and possibly it'll be easier this time. John Higgins will feel like I did going in. You like being world champion and the last thing you want is to give that up. There is real pressure on you."

His manager, too, is upbeat, emphasising appearances are deceptive. "Ken's just had his most consistent season on the circuit," Doyle said. "He's not won, but he's made plenty of semi-finals and finals and I'm not altogether sure that he's not very close to his peak. He's slipped quietly into his championship, and when you look at his draw, he's more than capable of regaining the crown. I know he's got the form."

"He's won no titles, but he's not taken anything mentally or physically out of himself. The telling factor for him will be the first round. If he gets

moving he tends to get stronger as the championship goes on. I feel confident about his potential."

Last year he was drawing 8-8 with Wales' Lee Walker before prevailing 10-8 in his first round match, and the score was identical against Mark Davis at the same stage in the year he won. Doherty hardly arrives at the Crucible with a clarion call, so Steve James was meeting him possibly at his most vulnerable.

In theory, anyway, because the Irishman had all the weakness of an armoured elephant yesterday as he built upon 8-1 lead and requires only two more frames today. "Never any doubt," Doherty said at one point when a red rattled in the jaws before trickling into the pocket. And that could have summed up his play yesterday afternoon. James was 6-0 down before he got his first success of the day and that required a 137 clearance, the second highest break of the tournament at that point.

If Doherty, who is attempting to reach his third final in succession, has had a weakness this year it has been an inability to finish off opponents after making initial breaks. But, although his charge was temporarily halted, he rattled off the next two frames to make the pre-tournament bookies odds against his winning seem generous.

"Steve James' game suits Ken," Doyle said. "When he's lost this season it's been against slow, methodical players who disrupt his rhythm. Ken likes an open game."

Doherty also likes the look of an open field with no obvious favourite, with Higgins burdened by the first-time-winner syndrome and complaining of about the hours of practice, and Hendry tucked far away in the draw, where he can only be met in the final.

"John Higgins is playing the best snooker in the world right now," Doherty said, "but you don't know how you're going to do in Sheffield until you get there. I know where he's coming from when it comes to practice. It's boring, but you have to do it because you know the other guys are doing it, and you have to work hard if you want to reap the rewards. You have to go through the pain barrier, satisfy yourself you're playing well enough and put the cue down until the next time."

"It's not so bad if you're playing with someone, but if you're on your own it can be purgatory. The season is organised so that the six or seven weeks before the world championship tournaments are back to back, which is tiring. It's hard to be met in the final."

Doherty has been visiting his own pugatory in Dublin, piling in the practice in the hope that the inspiration of two years ago will pay him a revisit. "I've been there," he said. "I know the pain is worth it."

The pale, pinched features caught on camera 12 months ago were no longer to be seen. Just a quiet confidence and a hopeful smile.

Asian trips no holiday for Drago

TONY DRAGO registered a stirring win over the newly crowned British Open champion, Fergal O'Brien, at the World Championship in Sheffield yesterday, but used his victory platform to launch a bitter attack on playing conditions at some overseas events.

Drago defeated the jaded Irishman 10-4 to keep alive his hopes of retaining a place in the top 16 elite next season. But the Maltese player said he is ready to boycott next season's overseas tournaments after experiencing difficulties on trips to Thailand and China during the last month.

Drago described a tournament hotel in Bangkok as "like a prison" and went on to add: "Whoever is organising these trips is doing a bad job. I had to be on my own, it was difficult

to find a room, the food was terrible, the service was terrible, the place was terrible. I had to pay £100 a night for a room, and I had to pay £100 a night for a meal. I had to pay £100 a night for a taxi. I had to pay £100 a night for a bus. I had to pay £100 a night for a train. I had to pay £100 a night for a flight. I had to pay £100 a night for a car. I had to pay £100 a night for a hotel. I had to pay £100 a night for a meal. I had to pay £100 a night for a taxi. I had to pay £100 a night for a bus. I had to pay £100 a night for a train. I had to pay £100 a night for a flight. I had to pay £100 a night for a car. I had to pay £100 a night for a hotel. I had to pay £100 a night for a meal. I had to pay £100 a night for a taxi. I had to pay £100 a night for a bus. I had to pay £100 a night for a train. I had to pay £100 a night for a flight. I had to pay £100 a night for a car. I had to pay £100 a night for a hotel. I had to pay £100 a night for a meal. 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Andrew injured as Wasps fly high

A COUPLE of mistakes cost Newcastle 12 points and victory but, cruelly, the errors were not theirs. Blame has to be laid at the feet of the referee. Robin Goodliffe. It sourced proceedings for the North-Easterners and was a savage blow to their European ambitions.

The victors, of course, would not quite see it like that, and were buzzing after the narrow win, lifted them into fifth place in the All-Ireland Dunbar Premiership.

Newcastle also lost Rob Andrew, who dislocated his left shoulder - ironically, in second-half injury time when Wasps were scoring their winning try, while just prior to that Mr Goodliffe had sent the Newcastle captain, Gary Armstrong, to the sin-bin for killing the ball.

Newcastle's coach, Steve Bates, was understandably unhappy. His side had done enough to win, not necessarily by a lot. Andrew also confirmed later that he was "done for the season", a diagnosis which rules him out of the Tetley's Bitter Cup final on 15 May against, of all sides, Wasps.

It was a brutal hit at times beautiful encounter. Rugged, rough and thrilling. And Wasps actually did enough to have won the match off their own bat. It could be argued that it was Wasps' errors which let Newcastle in for their tries and that it was their indiscipline which allowed Jonny Wilkinson to knock over his four penalties.

Mr Goodliffe's first mistake was to award a penalty for off-side against Newcastle after Andrew's kick had rebounded off a Wasps, thus rendering all the former England fly-half's team-mates outside. But the touch judge, who was on the spot when the kick was taken,

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Wasps 34
Newcastle 33

did not intervene when Mr Goodliffe ruled that Tony Underwood was offside when he gathered the rebound.

From the penalty came the first try, when the Wasps scrum-half Martyn Wood darted over. Then came the killer. Vai aiga Tuigamala, who had had an immense game for Newcastle scoring two tries, was adjudged to have tackled Gareth Rees illegally. Wasps kicked for the corner and spent some time on the visitors' line.

Then Armstrong was shown the white card and, eventually, the Wasps prop, Darren Molloy, bulldozed over. Alex King, who was scoring their winning try, while just prior to that Mr Goodliffe had sent the Newcastle captain, Gary Armstrong, to the sin-bin for killing the ball.

Newcastle's coach, Steve

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Tim Stimpson, the Leicester fullback, puts in a thumping tackle to stop the attack of the Saracens centre Ryan Constable at Welford Road

Robert Hallam

Tiring Tigers claw narrow win

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Leicester 25
Saracens 18

uses. "I felt the injury when we scrummed but not when I was running around."

Such selflessness is typical of the spirit the club has exhibited, although whether Wallace will be back in Saracens black next season is not sure.

"I am still negotiating a new contract," he explained. "It is being held up because of the salary cap."

Another factor is that the Irish RFU is offering tempting sums to entice their top players home, although Wallace insisted they had made no offer to him. If he were to go, he would be a big loss to Saracens.

The enormous Leicester crowd bayed for red, but the excellent Mr White defused the

second potential loss. Very late in the day Leicester were awarded a penalty - one of a countless number which reflected rather more badly on each side's indiscipline than it did on the excellent referee Chris White - because Tigers' centre Craig Joines was hanging on to one of Roberto Grav's legs.

The Argentine prop, naturally enough, felt a trifle peevish and, when he reclaimed his limb, decided to illustrate his indignation in a physical manner.

Sadly, at one point he appeared to deliver a head butt which seemed to connect with Joines' face. The Scotland international suffered a delayed reaction before falling to the ground.

The enormous Leicester crowd bayed for red, but the excellent Mr White defused the

situation and, other than a lecture, ignored the call of the crowd. Very wise, since television footage of the incident later proved inconclusive.

Of far more concern to Leicester is their form, and captain, Martin Johnson, admitted: "We have been playing poorly. But when you look at the injuries we have had it is understandable, although the guys coming in have played really well."

But they still lack bite and penetration out wide. As usual the pack was immense, Martin Corry grows in stature week by week and he earned praise from Saracens' captain-coach Francois Pienaar, who said: "Corry was excellent. I rate him very highly, he is a fantastic player with a tremendous work rate."

Daniel, especially, deserves

praise. He is one of some 15 players whose contract will not

be renewed at the end of the season. Mark Evans, the club's director of rugby, admitted the decision on each player had been personally painful to him.

The team spirit is strong, we are a close-knit bunch and we are going to play for each other until the end of the season," Daniel declared. "I am not going to leave the club with any bitterness."

The wear and tear will soon be over for everyone. That is when the tears will start for some.

Leicester: Tim Corry, Conversion Stimpson. Saracens: Penalties Stimpson 6, Saracens: Penalties Johnson 6.

Leicester: T Stimpson, L Lloyd, C John, J Williams, J Williams, P Howard, J Marwood, A Healey, R Jolley, G Gowrone, G Morris, R Cockerill (O West), G Garforth, M Johnson, N Borthwick, J Williams, J Williams, Saracens: G Johnson, R Thorbit, R Constable, K Sorrell, D Todd, J Thompson, T Thompson, A Pether, M Williams, P Howard, G Morris, O Cheshire, S Reid, P Wallace, G Morris, K Cheshire, C Vandell, D Atkinson, P Pienaar (Capt), G Cole, S Garside, J Williams, P Williams, Referee: C White (Chesterfield).

Dazzling Irish dash for Europe

BY TIM GLOVER

London Irish 47
Bath 22

WHILE DICK BEST, the London Irish coach, occupied a place near the half-way line, Andy Keast, his assistant, sat at the back of the stand at Sunbury to gain a better view of the action. Kitted with the latest technology, Keast was able to relay vital information to the Irish dug-out.

When Stephen Bachop was taken off in the 75th minute it was on Keast's instructions. The message relayed to Best was that Bachop was "out on his feet, absolutely knackered".

When the captain, Conor O'Shea, kicked for goal towards the end that, too, was under orders. "We wanted to reach the psychological barrier of 50 points," Keast said. "We also wanted to give the team a breather."

Nobody scores 50 points against Bath, although the Irish played with such commitment and flair they did seem capable of passing the half-century mark.

A couple of months ago the Exiles were stalking Leicester was at the top of the Premiership, but then suffered two defeats to Wasps and were beaten at Sale two weeks ago with a drop goal in the dying minutes.

That allowed Bath, who had a wretched run over Christmas and had regrouped and refocused with six wins from their last seven matches, to

move above the Irish into third place. "They had sneaked above us and so this was a real four-pointer for both sides," Best said.

At stake are six places in next season's European Cup, with a financial reward estimated at £1m per club. "We felt we needed to win three out of our remaining four games and by doing so for ourselves," Best added.

His game plan on Saturday was to prevent Bath scoring. "Our preparations were based on defence," Best admitted. "But we found ourselves in such good attacking positions we were able to play the game on the front foot."

Inspired by O'Shea and Bachop, London Irish overran

Bath, who were submerged beneath clever, fast and incisive attacks. Kevin Maggs, Bath's Irish international centre, is one of the best tacklers in the game, but even he was bemused by the audacity and aggression of O'Shea, Brendan Venter, Nick Burrows and Robert Todd, the latter scoring three tries.

O'Shea and Maggs were the only two Irishmen on the pitch, not that it bothered the Exile supporters. This was a lucrative day for Irish, who had never beaten Bath in the league, with a record crowd of 6,600.

Like Richmond at the Athletic Ground, Irish have been frustrated in their attempts to develop Sunbury, so next season they will almost certainly share The Stoop with Harlequins.

RUGBY UNION RESULTS AND TABLES

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

Harlequins 29 Bedford 16
London Irish 17 Bath 11
Northampton 44 Gloucester 13
Wasps 34 Newcastle 33
Welford 35 Richmond 36

P W D L F A PTS

Leicester 12 16 0 6 5 27 33

Northampton 12 16 0 6 5 27 33

T. Irish 24 14 0 10 6 47 55 28

Bath 22 12 0 9 5 56 43 25

Wasps 22 12 0 9 5 56 43 25

Saracens 12 12 0 9 5 56 43 25

Harlequins 20 11 0 9 5 56 43 25

Richmond 21 11 0 10 5 62 52 26

Bedford 20 10 0 8 5 53 51 20

Glocester 22 8 0 11 5 65 51 17

Sale 23 7 0 16 4 30 59 14

LSouthern 23 7 0 16 4 30 59 14

Welford 22 7 0 17 4 35 65 10

W. H. pool 21 3 1 17 38 76 7

P W D L F A PTS

London Irish 21 11 0 10 5 56 43 25

Richmond 21 11 0 10 5 62 52 26

Bedford 20 10 0 8 5 53 51 20

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P W D L F A PTS

League splutters in the rain

LIKE THE County Champion ship last week, the opening round of games in the new National League suffered from the elements.

Lancashire may not have taken Lightning with them to Canterbury, but they did take the traditional Manchester rain, leading to the abandonment of their encounter with Kent Spitfire. Durham, meanwhile, whose opening County fixture fell victim to the snow, lost some of yesterday's play for the same reason.

Yesterday's conditions continued where Saturday's had left off, with Leicestershire and Hampshire's match only one damp squib among several.

It was disappointing for the new competition, which includes coloured clothing, squad numbers and a free hit for a batsman after a no ball.

Leicestershire Foxes made 152 for seven in 40 of their 45 overs in the new-look competition before rain brought a premature end to their innings.

Hampshire Hawks were set a revised target of 172 in 40 overs for victory under the Duckworth Lewis method and had slipped to 17 for two off 5.3 overs when the rain began to lash down again.

"Because of the early start to the season there was always an element of a risk about the weather," Leicestershire chief executive David Collier said. "But at least we managed to get some cricket in and there was a lot of complimentary comments made by quite a few people."

Neil Smith's hopes of conjuring up a first win as Warwickshire's captain were also scuppered by the weather as Northamptonshire escaped with a draw in their opening County Championship match at Edgbaston on Saturday.

The newly-appointed Smith

CRICKET

By ANDREW ATKINSON

was denied a chance of snatching two more bonus points when the last day was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Northamptonshire were still 156 behind at 167 for six, and the only consolation for Smith was that his side again looked capable of adding to the numerous trophies they have won since 1994.

The 31-year-old all-rounder, who has followed his father, M J K, into the county captaincy, accepts that there are pressures in maintaining the success rate.

"If you are consistently successful over five or six years, as we have been, there is a great deal of expectancy, and this can be difficult to live up to," he said. "You do feel pressure from supporters, but it's also a good thing, because there is no need to motivate anyone. We have no divine right to win competitions but looking at the quality of the players here, we have the ability to do well."

Smith, as well as his Somerset counterpart, Jamie Cox, will be hoping for better weather at Edgbaston today. Cox, in particular, has his reasons – it will be the first time he has led his side out.

The Tasmanian will continue to partner Peter Bowler at the top of the order – the pair scored centuries against Cambridge University at Fenner's. Somerset are expected to name Keith Parsons as 12th man with former Warwickshire off-spinner Adrian Pierson set to play against his old side.

"I'm very excited," Cox said. "I've been looking forward to this for quite a few months. Hopefully we won't see too much rain. All the boys seem to be in good form so we're raring to go out there."

The visitors, who won the toss, scoring 242 for 7, suffered



Nottinghamshire's Vasbert Drakes narrowly fails to run out Middlesex's Jamie Hewitt at Lord's yesterday

Robert Hallam

Adams and Campbell combine to overhaul Australia

A CENTURY partnership between Shervin Campbell and Jimmy Adams set up West Indies for a five-wicket victory over Australia in Port of Spain on Saturday to give them a 2-1 lead in the seven-match limited-overs series.

The visitors, who won the toss, scoring 242 for 7, suffered

a blow when they lost their main strike bowler, Glenn McGrath, to injury. They were all struggling to restrict West Indies from the time McGrath limped from the field after one over, having turned his left ankle when he slipped while fielding. West Indies reached 244 for 5 with six balls to spare,

Adams (82 from 102 balls) and the opener Campbell (64 from 83 balls) set West Indies on a winning path with a 109-run partnership. All-rounder Carl Hooper then scored a crucial 56 from just 61 balls to take West Indies to within sight of a victory which was secured when captain Brian Lara, batting down

at No 5, lashed Tom Moody to the boundary.

The off-spinner Nehemiah Perry was the most impressive of West Indies bowlers, finishing with 3 for 45, as well as being involved in both his side's run-outs. Australia struggled with their run rate despite a bright 29 from 38 deliveries by Damien

Martyn, 40 from 48 by Lehmann and an unbeaten 29 from 22 by Michael Bevan.

But Martyn, Lehmann, Tom Moody (2) and Steve Waugh (2), who recorded his third failure in as many games, were dismissed in the space of four overs and the Australian total never looked quite enough.

Towers turn the tables on Eagles

BASKETBALL

By RICHARD TAYLOR

THE LONDON Towers hoodoo worked on Newcastle Eagles again on Saturday night, as they knocked them out of the Budweiser Championship play-off quarter-finals for the third year in a row.

The Eagles swept the Towers 3-0 in regular league games, just like last season, but could not get past them to reach the semi-finals at Wembley over the first weekend of May.

Towers trailed after the first game in the best of three series, but Randy Duck topped their scorers again on Saturday with 24 points, after leading them to victory on Thursday to square the series.

The Towers, who moved most of their games to Crystal Palace this season, return to their original Wembley home for the play-off finals, where they will face league champions Sheffield Sharks in the first semi-final.

Manchester Giants will play Thames Valley Tigers in the second semi, after beating last season's play-off winners Birmingham Bullets 90-77 on Saturday. The Sharks beat Great London Leopards 73-68 on Friday to win their series 2-1.

Tigers earlier eliminated Derby Storm 2-0 and were the only team to win an away game in the quarter-finals, as the top quartet in the league qualified for Wembley.

Tony Dorsey, who led Birmingham to the play-off title last season, scored 34 points for Giants against the Bullets on Saturday as Manchester pulled away in the fourth quarter.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Sunday

CGU NCL - Division One

Kent Spitfires v Lancashire Lightning

CANTERBURY

Match abandoned: No result. Kent Spitfires (2pts) Lancashire Lightning (2pts)

CGU NCL - Division Two

Durham Dynamos v Surrey Lions

RIVERSIDE (One Day)

SURRY LIONS

Runs 6s 4s 3s 2s 1s Wickets

A 0 Bowler b Kileen 15 0 3 15 14 14

A 0 Bowler c & b Brown 27 0 3 18 21 12

A 1 J Hallen c & b Ward 0 0 0 0 3

A 2 C Hollis c & b Phillips 45 4 37 37

A 0 Shabot c Collingswood b Phillips 24 1 20 23

G P Butcher not out 15 0 0 13 12

A 1 J Tudor b Wood 0 0 0 1 1

M P Brichell not out 1 0 0 0 1

Extras (b1 w1 nb1) 24

Total (for 7, 26 overs) 175

Fall: 1-10, 2-18, 3-26, 4-103, 5-159, 6-166, 7-168.

Did Not Bat: N Batty, J E Benjamin.

Bowling: M M Bets 0-20-0, S J E Brown 5-30-31, N C Phillips 5-30-31, P O Collingwood 2-0-35.

DURHAM DYNAMOS

Runs 6s 4s 3s 2s 1s Wickets

*D C Bonn b Benjamin 55 2 6 41 44

J E Morris c & b Brichell 0 0 6 16

J A Dales not out 34 0 4 41 58

M P Speight run out 32 2 1 23 22

J B Lewis not out 1 0 0 3 2

Extras (b1 nb1 w1 nb2) 14

Total (for 4, 19.1 overs) 141

Fall: 1-22, 2-28, 3-78, 4-138.

To Bat: N C Phillips, M M Bets, J Wood, N Kileen, S J E Brown, B Mollon 0-20-0, S J E Brown 5-30-31, A J Tudor 5-0-49, J E Benjamin 0-25-1, N Shabot 1-0-9-0.

Umpires: D J Constant and V A Holder.

The Saturday

PPP Healthcare County Championship

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGARSTON (Day 4 of 4): Warwickshire (9pts) drew with Northamptonshire (8pts)

WARRICKSHIRE - First Innings 323; Brown 142, Hems 64, Malcolm 61 (16) 116.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Innings 198; 6 (Match 5-7).

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead.

CGU NCL - Division One

Leicestershire Foxes v Hampshire Hawks

RIVERSIDE (One Day)

Leicestershire Foxes (2pts)

HAMPSHIRE HAWKS - 172

Umpires: A Clarkson and B Leadbeater.

Other Match

Cambridge University v Somerset

FENNER'S (Day 3 of 3): Cambridge drew with Somerset

CGU NCL - Division Two

Nottinghamshire v Nottinghamshire

Outlaws

LORD'S (One Day)

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire Lightning

MIDDLESEX CRUSADERS

Runs 6s 4s 3s 2s 1s Wickets

P N Weeks c Wharf b Drakes 11 0 1 19 10

M A Roseberry c Johnson b Draven 7 3 1 100 50

J L Langer c Wharf b Drakes 71 3 2 77 11

A 0 Shabot c & b Ward 0 0 0 4 3

A 0 C Nash not out 22 0 0 35 44

A 0 D 3 Leeks not out 2 0 11 22

J P Hooper not out 4 0 0 5 2

Extras (b1 w1 nb1) 39

Total (for 4, 45 overs) 239

Fall: 1-33, 2-164, 3-171, 4-203, 5-209, 6-233.

Did Not Bat: S J Cook, A R C Fraser, C J Batt.

Bowling: V C Drakes 5-13-2, P J Franks 5-16-31, P M Dowman 5-0-26-1, R M 0-0-0-0, M P Dwan 5-0-26-1, R P Niles 5-0-30-3, P O Collingwood 2-0-3-0.

WEST INDIES WIN BY FIVE WICKETS.

YESTERDAY

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh run out 74

C G Gibbs, A Ambrose & Perry 43

S L Lee run out 29

D 3 M Lehmann c Hooper b Simmons 40

*S R Waugh b Simmons 29

T M Moody b Perry 5

S K Warne not out 5

Extras (b1 w6 nb2) 242

Total (for 7, 59 overs) 742

Fall: 1-108, 2-123, 3-128, 4-194,

5-210, 6-210, 7-215.

Did not bat: S W Fleming, G D McGrath.

Bowling: Ambrose 10-2-40-0; Bryan 10-0-50; Hooper 9-0-47-0; Arthur 10-0-50; Waugh 9-0-47-0; Perry 10-0-45-3; Simmons 9-0-43-2.

WEST INDIES

S C Williams c Wharf b Fleming 4

S L Campbell c Wharf b Lehmann 54

J C Adams c Wharf b Fleming 22

C L Hooper not out

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

They're mad for blue decking and willow fences. They're fond of Alan Titchmarsh's cute sort of charm.

But what the millions of 'Ground Force' fans really love is that Charlie Dimmock doesn't bother with bras

Charlie Dimmock – that great pioneer of bra-less gardening – is coming round my house! We are all very excited. I am excited, because I want to show her my own water feature, cleverly constructed from a wholly nasty B&Q barbecue left out for six winters, and now full of big, floating, rusty bits. However, my partner is even more excited. Naturally, this is not because he is especially keen on gardening although, that said, he has, on occasion, put on old trousers and told me where to dig. No, he is excited because Charlie, he says, is pure horticultural Viagra. Charlie's bosom, he continues, is a magnificent thing, especially when she's out there with a pick-axe in one of those super-thin T-shirts and the weather is playing ball. He has even come up with a little plan to make his fortune. He is, he says, going to set up a stall outside, offering teas, coffees and binoculars to the local males of the neighbourhood, according to the following price scale.

If the weather is mild: 50p
If there is a nip in the air: £7.95
If there's a lot of nip in the air, plus every chance of a downpour: £9.80

Oh, come on, I cry, in my outraged feminist way. You're being totally pathetic. You could get at least £265.90 for the last one. Charlie cold and wet? That's something most blokes would move to Sweden and get an adult cable channel for. He says: "Are binoculars actually necessary, do you think?" Anyway, I tell all this to Charlie later, and she laughs most heartily. She is, yes, quite a hearty woman all round, which is possibly why men like her so. She is kind of real. She is not a TV Carol. She doesn't look like she pays someone to go into reverse for her. She looks, instead, like someone who can go at it all day on a glass of water. And then, perhaps, do a spot of gardening, too.

A lot of people now watch *Ground Force* – the BBC garden make-over programme that stars Charlie (the water feature expert) and Tommy Walsh (the builder) and Alan Titchmarsh (who gets byzantinely camper by the minute). Indeed, the programme, which regularly attracts audiences of more than 11 million, is the second most watched BBC programme after *EastEnders*. But, unlike *EastEnders*, it doesn't make you all gloomy. It just makes you want blue decking and fiddly willow fences and a pebble pool and a hubbie fountain and ornamental grasses which, Charlie confirms, are "trendy, trendy TRENDY". So what's not trendy, Charlie? "Formal borders are pretty unfashionable." Plus, she says, she doesn't personally much like conifers. Why? "Because they just stand there, being conifers, don't they?" I can see she has a point.

The spin-off book from the series, *The Ground Force Workbook*, has been top of the best-seller list since it was published in early February, and is now in its fourth reprint. It's Charlie that has given the programme its brilliant, almost soft-porn edge, and it's Charlie who's becoming the biggest celebrity. Charlie is getting her own TV show soon. Charlie is bringing out her own book on water features soon. Charlie has been hired to open a garden centre in Bagshot and is being fitted for a Bette Midler-style mermaid costume. A number of garden tool manufacturers are interested in bringing out ranges under her name. (The Dimmock Dib, perhaps?) AA Gill, *The Sunday Times* television critic, is very in love with her. "She arrives on our screens from a long line of very English bawds and milkmaids, serving girls, tavern wenches and strumpets that sway provocatively," he wrote recently. "Charlie is in our genes, and we just wish we were in hers." Yes, she did read it. And? "I had to hide it from my boyfriend. It was so embarrassing!" You don't think of yourself as a great sex goddess, then? "Heavens, no! How can you suddenly become sexy? I've never been sexy. I was not a pretty child. I was fat and pasty and ginger..."

It's a cold morning. But no, it's not wet. It's hailing! "Yes, yes!" exclaims my partner, doing mini-jigs of celebration. "There is a god." And, yes, Charlie is wearing one of her thin T-shirts. Just standing in our rather chilly kitchen, it's hard not to mistake her for a mug tree. Charlie, dear, have you never heard of this thing called THE BRA? It is, I think you'll find, an undergarment designed to cover and support women's breasts. It was first created in the early 1900s from two handkerchiefs and a narrow ribbon, but things have improved enormously since then.

She says she doesn't know what all the fuss is about. "I'm sure 50 per cent of women don't bother with bras." "Do you think so?" asks my partner. "And I do find them so uncomfortable.



Storm in a B-cup

Even sports bras ride up when you raise your arms," she adds. "Do they?" he asks. "The BBC tried to make me wear one once," she continues, "but I spent the whole time hoisting." "Hoisting, yes," he says sympathetically. "And it's not as if I'm even big-busted. I'm only a 36B." "36B," he repeats, longingly. "36B!" I cry. I say Charlie, I dream of being a 36B. I say Charlie, if people looked at me through binoculars they'd think they'd got them the wrong way round. "And that's a fact!" my partner exclaims. I say, "OUT!" And "OUT, OUT, OUT!" He disappears suddenly.

Still, Charlie can get away with it because she is very natural. And gorgeous, in that tavern wench way. She is not fat and pasty and ginger anymore. She has masses of strawberry blonde hair. She has fantastic skin. She has very pale blue eyes. Her make-up regime is: "Take it off the next morning, if I remember." She has dirt under her fingernails. She has kept on the day job, as manager of a water garden centre in Hampshire, "and sometimes, I have to soak my hands in Domestos to get them clean". She is not a size 10. "I had to go to this TV-awards recently, and all these designers wanted to lend me dresses, but they were all size 10. I had to tell them I would burst out of a size 10." She's not a one-Ryvita-and-a-peeled-radish-for-lunch sort of woman. She's a woman of some appetite. She likes "all you can eat" restaurants best. She likes wine. Her boyfriend of 11 years, John, who now works as a pond supply wholesaler, used to be a viticulturist. They get through at least three bottles nightly. John's quite fussy about his wine, whereas Charlie isn't. "Everything tastes all right by the third glass to me."

We go out into my garden. Already I can see my neighbours – Peter on one side, Jerry on the other – hanging over their fences. Peter says: "Charlie, I'm thinking of making my circular pond square, what do you think?" Jerry says: "Charlie, my fish seem a bit still. Why is that?" Charlie says: "Square's fine if you want square." And: "It could be the fluctuating water temperatures." Peter and Jerry are very keen on gardening. Sometimes I'm reluctant to send our son out to play, in case he comes back all pruned and pinched out. I am rather less keen on gardening. I might even be pure horticultural disaster. I give Charlie a quick tour. She is very impressed, not only with my barbecue water feature, but also with the rock garden, which I inherited from the

previous owners, in which even the rocks seem to have crumbled and died. As for the lawn, we have enhanced this nicely over the years with a cricket mud-patch, a football mud-patch, and a mud-patch mud-patch. I say I'm thinking of replacing the whole lot with Astro turf and, maybe, a lot of vivid *Brady Bunch* plastic shrubs. She says that's not especially kind to wildlife. I say what has wildlife ever done for me, apart from go: "Bzz, bzz... sting." Jerry says: "So you don't think my fish are dead, then?" Peter says: "I think square is neater somehow." I say that if I catch her using my barbecue idea on *Ground Force*, I'll get her. It's patent pending, you know.

She was born Charlotte Eloise Dimmock. Her father, Terry, was a merchant seaman, who was away for long spells. She loved it when he came home, she says, "because then we got a cooked

daisy shapes. She was always throwing parties I have vivid recollections of waking up under piles of coats." Charlie spent a lot of time with her grandparents – her mother's parents, Phyllis and Steven – which is how her interest in gardening began. Grandad Steven worked on a large country estate as a gardener, and Charlie would stay at the weekends, helping him weed and plant carrots and peas. She loved her grandad. "He always used to put me to bed at night, and rub my back, and sing songs. On Saturday afternoons we used to sit in front of the telly, watching the football results, eating watercress sandwiches. Just hearing the football results now makes my mouth fill with the taste of watercress."

While still at school, she took a Saturday job at the garden centre where she is now the manager. She made her first telly appearance on a local gardening programme, *Grass Roots*, a three-minute spot on water features. Subsequently, she was asked by the same producer to co-present *Ground Force*. She had no idea it would become so popular. It's not like a gardening programme has ever topped the ratings before. She thinks it might be because, what with the baby-boomers now having their own homes, more people, and younger people, are now into gardening than ever before. I say this is possibly true, but it's also to do with the personalities involved. Viewers want to see Charlie labouring in her bra-less way. And they want to see Tommy going: "ooooohhhhhh, I dunno bout this." And they want to see Alan going about in his brilliantly amiable way. Tell me, Charlie, is Alan ever not amiable. "Well, when he gets really stressed, he can say the odd naughty word." No! "YES!" So it's all seething underneath? She says she wouldn't exactly go that far.

She enjoys being a celebrity, although is determined not to get too used to it. She has, she says, squirrelled most of the money away. "And I still go around in a knackered Vauxhall." Still, she recently spent £200 on a pair of gold sandals. "And there is nothing to them. Just three inch stiletto heels and one teeny gold strap... I told my boyfriend they were £120, and my dad that they were £85." My partner reappears at this point. He is quite taken by the thought of Charlie in gold high heels. "She's got gold high heels," he later calls out to Peter. "She's got gold high heels." he later calls out to Jerry. They say they'd pay ANYTHING to see her mulching in those.

DEBORAH ROSS
FEATURE WRITER
OF THE YEAR

breakfast". Her mother, Sue, who now works in PR, was quite a hippie and, at least initially, rather indisposed to parenthood. "She didn't want children and when she found out she was pregnant with me, she sat in a hot bath and drank gin." How terrible to know that, I say. Not at all, she says. It's not like she ever felt unloved. "I remember once getting smacked for playing with an ornament mum had told me not to play with and being absolutely shocked." She says she isn't much interested in having children herself. "I just don't find babies cute. I'm sorry, but I don't."

Charlie grew up in a little cottage in a New Forest village, which her mother painted pink with red shutters. "I suppose mum was quite way out. She wore groovy dresses. I remember her going bare-legged in a crocheted dress made from

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War is always nasty

Sir: When I see your headline "This is a horror story" (16 April) and listen to every news bulletin going over and over the events of the attack on the refugee column in Kosovo, I begin to believe that you in the media must all be 19 years old.

As someone who lived in London throughout the last war I remember the thousands of London's civilians who were killed on purpose - not accidentally. You must learn that war is dangerous, nasty, bloody, unfair, unjust and uncomfortable and disrupts people's lives for years afterwards. If every mistake is to be analysed by Nato, UN and world-wide media you will soon find that many, particularly those that have lived through war, will just shut it off.

So do try and grow up. What you young people are reporting is war. MARGARET BELL
London N6

Sir: While the loss of life incurred during the mistaken attack on a group of Kosovo refugees is highly regrettable, such error in modern warfare is by no means uncommon. Given the speed at which various scenarios emerge it is surprising that such incidents are not more common. No amount of smart technology has yet negated the role of the man on the trigger.

Modern conflicts have a long history of such accidents, from infantrymen in the American Civil War of both sides firing on their own compatriots, to the firing on the Grimsby fishing fleet by the Imperial Russian Navy, many incidents in both World Wars and the attack by an American fighter on a British armoured column during the Gulf war.

As soon as conflict is entered upon there is a sad certainty that such incidents will happen. They should not be used as an excuse to call for the abandonment of a just cause. The real tragedy is that such incidents divert attention from the inhuman activities of the Serbian military and paramilitary forces in Kosovo. Thankfully Nato high command are not so easily swayed from their purpose. IAN M HENDERSON
Rochester, Kent

Sir: The attack on a convoy of Albanian Kosovar refugees is a tragedy in two senses. The most immediate tragedy is that a large number of non-combatants have been slaughtered by the US military, but beneath the surface lies another, darker and deeper tragedy - that the US public sees this attack as an aberration, and that the US media largely reports it as such. The historical record of US "interventions" shows a pattern of massive and often indiscriminate slaughter of civilians.

In the war against Vietnam hundreds of thousands of civilians were murdered by US forces; the 1989 invasion of Panama resulted in the deaths of 3,000 civilians; during and after the war against Iraq, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians were (and are being) killed by the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure coupled with the US sanctions against Iraq.

These crimes are being committed in our name, so if we are really concerned about the deaths of innocent people we should be opposing the policies of any government which facilitates them. Failure to do so makes us all guilty of war crimes. MARK A LUNT
Irvington, New York, USA

Sir: While reading recently I came across a few lines that caught my eye. "The knee-jerk reaction of the generals and admirals was to demand more bombing. But after every new attack they raised the ante. Throughout this dialogue, they issued statements extolling the air campaign as 'highly effective'."

Strangely enough, this was not referring to Serbia, but to Rolling Thunder, the US air war against North Vietnam of 30 years ago, which dragged on for years and never achieved its aim of forcing the North Vietnamese to accept an American policy or world view.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5D1, and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Bullfighting School No 1: young matadors or 'Novilleros', in Madrid, await the start of their first 'corrida' of the year

Ulster arms pledge

Sir: The minimal interpretation of the Good Friday Agreement favoured by Frank Murphy and Hugh Mulcahy (letters, 15 April) is not the only possible one. But even if the agreement did not commit the republicans to an early start to decommissioning, they were already committed by their own words.

Senator Mitchell and his colleagues on the International Body reported in January 1996: "We have concluded that there is a clear commitment on the part of those in possession of [paramilitary] arms to work constructively to achieve a full and verifiable decommissioning as part of the process of all-party negotiations."

Nothing that has happened since justified the republicans renegeing on that commitment. Paramilitary prisoners are being released, despite the pain caused to the victims and bereaved.

It is sometimes claimed that republicans need arms for self-defence. As Gerry Adams put it in a speech in New York last May: "People still have vivid memories of the burning out of nationalist homes at the start of the troubles, while the RUC watched, and therefore feel a need for defence; it is not a question of retaining a capacity for attack." In that case, there should be no problem about decommissioning arms of a kind which can only be used offensively, such as Semtex, rocket launchers, detonators. That would constitute the "credible beginning" David Trimble is asking for.

Another objection is that decommissioning would mean surrender. But only the republicans are using such language. In January 1996, the International Body said "the decommissioning process should suggest neither victory nor defeat", and the British and Irish governments have followed that recommendation scrupulously. Paramilitaries do not have to hand in their arms to either government or even to the Independent International Commission. They can destroy them themselves, provided that the commission verifies it.

STEPHEN PLOWDEN
London NW1

Equality for gays

Sir: Professor Stephen Senn regards ideas of equality as "emotive" and "irrelevant" in the context of the debate over the homosexual age of consent (letter, 16 April).

Equality under the law may well be an emotive subject but it is not irrelevant. As a result of the current state of the law, the European Commission on Human Rights has found the UK in breach of articles 8 and 14 of the convention. This is because the law intrudes into private life in a discriminatory fashion without good cause.

It was suggested that unequal ages of consent could be justified on the grounds of differing "emotional and physical maturity" as between boys and girls. This argument was rejected by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in their response to the 1976 Criminal Law Review and by the British Medical Association in their 1994 report.

The net result of the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 and 1967 is that a homosexual age of consent offence leaves both parties - older and younger - liable to prosecution. What better weapon can be given to an abuser? I cannot think of a more certain way of ensuring that such abuse remains undiscovered and unpunished.

LAURENCE JUPP
Bristol

Save me, Monsanto!

Sir: What is this subversive document, the Genetix Snowball handbook (letters, 15, 16 April)? Can we all have one? If so, will we also receive copies of the Monsanto injunctions? It would be nice to know how much the company are concerned to protect us from our own potential folly.

JOSE JOHNES
Worcester

The marathon is about love, sex... and Welsh politics

THE COUPLE who got married while they were actually running in this year's London Marathon were not the only ones to make history in the great race. There were many other curious stories to come out of the long distance ordeal, including the following...

"We got divorced during the 1999 London Marathon."

Jim and Emily Littwak actually met during the 1995 London Marathon, during the latter stages of the race, when both were looking for any excuse to give up. He encouraged her to persevere to the end, love flourished thereafter and they got married in 1996. However, Emily met someone else during the 1997 Marathon and, well, it was love at first sight again.

"I could somehow sense when Emily moved in with this other fel-

low that our marriage was beginning to drift apart," admits Jim Littwak, "and this year we decided that enough was enough. Still, we thought it only fitting that a marriage that had started in the Marathon should finish in the Marathon, so we arranged for divorce proceedings to be started during the race today. And all may turn out for the best, as during the race today I met a nice girl whom I am seeing again tomorrow."

"I took up Welsh politics during the London Marathon."

David Williams, who left his native Cardiff 12 years ago, was nearing the 10-mile mark in the Marathon when he was approached by two Welsh Labour Party workers who were out canvassing for votes among Welsh expatriates as they ran.

"It was quite odd, really. One moment I was getting my second wind, the next moment someone was asking me if I was aware that I had a vote in the Welsh Assembly elections and whether I would be using it. Then another voice asked me how important the Welsh identity was to me. Then I said that I had left Wales to get away from all this sort of thing, but that if I did vote it would probably be Plaid Cymru, and the first voice said, how could I vote for anyone with such an English name as Wigley? Then we got into quite an argument after that, and I must have lost track of time, because the next thing I knew we were crossing the Severn Bridge into Wales!"

"I fathered a love child during the London Marathon."

Sidney and Georgia Greenslade

claim to have made love during this year's London Marathon, and that the ensuing child may be a MILES KINGSTON

What is it about this long distance ordeal that causes such curious behaviour?



Jennum Marathon baby, but they refuse to go into details, not so much because they are coy about it as because they have signed up to their story to a rival newspaper.

"I cooked and served a complete three course dinner while running the London Marathon."

TV chef Audrey Manningtree has been looking for a gimmick for a new TV cooking series ever since his last series *Chef Up A Gum Tree* which showed what handy recipes you could cook while lost in a forest didn't get a commission for a second series. He thinks he has found a worthy replacement in his new series *Cook On The Run* which shows what handy meals you can dish up without ever standing still. During yesterday's race, he not only successfully served up soup, salmon and souffle, but managed

to set fire to several rival runners whom he promptly doused with mineral water.

"I've done a lot of funny things in my life," says Manningtree, "but that's the first time I've gone up to someone on fire and said, 'Sparkling or still, sir?'"

"I made over £200,000 during the race!"

Young city financier Edwin Phelps likes to keep in touch with the markets round the world every day of the week, including Sunday. That's why even though running the Marathon he still took a mobile phone with him.

"I estimated I would take about three hours for the race, which is three hours away from the markets if you don't have a phone. So I took one with me and did a lot of business during the race. I got a lot of

cross looks from other runners but I think they'd have thought differently if they knew I made about a quarter of a million during the race. Something to do with the adrenaline, I guess. Doesn't work for everyone. There was a guy I was running close to who was also on the phone and he must have lost about a quarter of a million during the race. That may have been why he threw himself off the bridge when we crossed the Thames. Damned stupid thing to do. Didn't he know his mobile wouldn't work underwater?"

"I changed sex during the London Marathon."

"It's always been my ambition to start the Marathon as a man and end it as a woman," says Julian, now Julia, Ordish (continued some other time).

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A Commons vote is the true test of a just war

IT IS simply baffling that the Government will try to avoid a vote in the House of Commons tonight on the war in Yugoslavia. The outcome is not remotely in doubt. There is a huge cross-party majority among MPs, as there is in the country, in support of military action against Slobodan Milosevic's regime. All that a vote would do would be to quantify precisely the size of the tiny minority that is opposed to the war, a strange alliance of isolationist Conservatives like Alan Clark and quasi-pacifists like Tony Benn.

And yet the Prime Minister would rather not have a vote, presumably because it could conceivably be used to present Britain as a divided nation through the distorting lens of Serb propaganda. His instinct could not be more wrong. When the nation is engaged, as Tony Blair himself put it, in a war of civilisation against barbarity, it is central to the whole business that public support for a just cause must be democratically tested and expressed.

If Mr Blair had asked the Commons for its head-counted endorsement from the start, it would have been granted and Mr Benn would have been deprived of the chance to hawk his tiny patch of the moral high ground around the newspapers.

Mr Benn's assertion that the constitutional rules governing the making of war in this country are unclear is right and important, but it is beside the point in the present case. It is indeed time that the moth-eaten fiction of Crown prerogative were replaced by the simple requirement that the House of Commons should give its explicit approval for the committing of British armed forces and for the objectives which they are set. But that is in any case the underlying reality, because a prime minister, in peace and war, must command the confidence of the House. There is no doubt that Mr Blair is doing what parliament and people want him to do. A vote would have strengthened the Government's hand, not weakened it.

The Commons quite rightly debated the bombing of Yugoslavia on 25 March, the day after it started, but instead of claiming its democratic mandate, the Government resorted to a student-union procedural tactic to deny its opponents a vote. It had pulled the same trick last December, when the Commons debated the bombing of Iraq, and it should have learnt then that it needlessly undermined its own moral authority. It is not as if Britain presents a monolithic face to Belgrade in any case. In our free press and free parliament, opposition to the war has been fully aired. But each expression of doubt and dismay only reinforces the contrast between pluralism and the state-controlled media of Belgrade.

Let the shaking heads be counted tonight, and let a just and democratic war be fought by means as just and democratic as we can make them.



Will the end mean the end of Milosevic?

BEFORE THE time comes to vote, however, there is plenty for the Commons to discuss. Nato is nowhere near the endgame in the Balkans yet, but already the "How do we end this thing?" problem can be detected. In the Gulf war, the question of pursuing Saddam Hussein's troops all the way to Baghdad raised itself long before the original objective, the liberation of Kuwait, was fulfilled. Many in the West regretted the decision to stop at the border.

Yesterday, President Clinton appeared to apply that lesson to the situation in Yugoslavia by saying: "The region cannot be secure with a belligerent tyrant in its midst." Is Nato now committed not just to liberating Kosovo but to getting rid of Milosevic?

The trouble is that the one has always implied the

other. Milosevic came to power in Belgrade on the back of the "Kosovo issue", the claim that this province, with its sacred orthodox Christian sites but majority Muslim population, is the "heart of Serbia". And both Bill Clinton and Tony Blair have ruled out the partition of Kosovo or any other compromise. Javier Solana, Nato's secretary general, said peace would be "difficult" without a "democratic Yugoslavia". Perhaps, when he addresses the Commons this afternoon, the Prime Minister will explain how a democratic Yugoslavia can be brought about.

Art after midnight

THE ALL-NIGHT opening of the Monet exhibition in London to mark the end of its crowd-pulling run could be derided simply as a gimmick. If that was a gimmick, let us have more of them. It is about time art galleries treated their paintings less as sacramental objects and more

as entertainment. Why not look at Monet's art through different eyes, hazy at three o'clock in the morning in an unexpected crowd, instead of reverentially in the afternoon when feet seem to hurt most? It is best not to be too clear-eyed about Monet in any case. The artist himself suffered increasingly from cataracts and became in later life a painter of almost pure colour; his paintings studies of the instability of colour in light. The clear-eyed critics have had this exhibition wrong, complaining that too many of the repetitive versions of similar themes are not masterpieces. True, but it is not grounds for complaint: this was an exhibition of a master, not of masterpieces. Monet himself did not regard most of the works as finished. And his restless attempts to capture the effects of light, mist, fog and movement lend themselves to being captured by noisier nocturnal crowds. Why should culture for the masses mean only football? If we can shop and dance all night, then we can do 24-hour high culture too.

On Ashdown's succession hangs the future of the Blair project



DONALD MACINTYRE

The war is one factor which is starting to turn some Liberal Democrats towards Menzies Campbell

IT IS an irony just as the campaign for the Scottish Parliament elections begin in earnest that at least two of the front-runners to lead one of the three UK-wide political parties may still end up being Scots. This is reassuring to those of us who fear the prospect of the break-up of the United Kingdom. But that's not the only, or even the main, point. Academically, a question as it may seem, the question of who succeeds Paddy Ashdown to the leadership of the Liberal Democrats matters to the future of British politics much more than most of those outside the party are prepared, especially in the middle of a war, to admit. It is not too much to say that on it may turn the future of the Blair project to transform the landscape of British politics, bring the Labour and Liberal traditions closer together, and to end, in Lord Jenkins' resonant terminology, the 21st century a radical one in the way that that the 20th was a Conservative.

If you doubt that the Liberal Democrats still matter to Tony Blair, consider this: in one of the more under-reported events of the weekend it was announced that Ashdown was travelling to the Balkans as the Prime Minister's envoy. No doubt Blair's famously good personal relationship with Ashdown played an important part. There is not much point in someone poking about in Albania and Macedonia on the Prime Minister's behalf unless he's trusted. Secondly, of course, Ashdown knows the region and took an intelligent interest in it long before it was fashionable to do so. But there is, I suspect, a third reason,

This is interesting because it may affect the calculation of whether Campbell does eventually decide to stand for the party leadership. He has

which is that Blair knows that Ashdown's visible presence helps in its own way to reassure doubters, especially centre and left-of-centre doubters, that the Nato war against Milosevic's slaughter in Kosovo is worth fighting. I can think of one important Government official who was told by a relative that she left better about the war whenever Ashdown came up on television to defend it.

In part that is because of Ashdown's personality and partly because he has real military experience; but it is also partly because he represents a liberal constituency, in the widest sense of both words, which is anything but war-mongering, and is therefore all the more convincing when he argues that war and humanitarian objectives are not mutually exclusive.

Which is where Menzies Campbell comes in. In that curiously inapt phrase applied to those who never stray anywhere more dangerous than a TV studio, a newspaper computer keyboard, or a ministerial office, Campbell is also one of those non-government politicians who has had a good war. His experience, his sober and reassuring demeanour, his real expertise in foreign and security matters, and his supportive but unsycophantic judgments of the Nato action have been especially evident in TV and radio coverage of the war by comparison with the near-invisibility of Tories Michael Howard and John Major during the last few weeks.

This is interesting because it may affect the calculation of whether Campbell does eventually decide to stand for the party leadership. He has

made it clear that he will not make up his mind until after the Scottish, Welsh and local elections. An Edinburgh QC, with a happy family and social life, he could yet decide to pass up the hassle that the party leadership would entail – always supposing he won it. What's more, he has been extremely hesitant, perhaps too hesitant, about taking part in an election which he is not pretty confident of winning.

But although his uncertainty remains genuine, the war is one factor which is starting gradually to turn at least some Liberal Democrat minds towards Campbell. This is not merely a matter of regular and convincing appearances of television. It has also raised the question of whether a British party leader at the end of this century doesn't need to be someone

with a lively and knowledgeable interest in international affairs.

But there is also another reason. Charles Kennedy, the other leading Scottish candidate, is clearly the man to beat in the Liberal Democrat leadership contest. He is intelligent, also a convincing media performer, and unlike all too many modern politicians, is fun, having both wit and charm. Finally, and this may be at once his greatest strength, but also his potential weakness, he is a unifying candidate. He doesn't yet, it's fair to say, have a very clear message, a convincing one-line answer to the sort of question which once fatally floored his candidate Ted Kennedy's attempt to secure a Democratic nomination:

"Why do you want to be President of the US?" But it looks as though Kennedy's line is somewhere in the middle between the outright enthusiasts for Lib-Lab co-operation and its outright opponents. Of the latter, Jackie Ballard, an attractive politician, is the one with easily the most appeal among activists and the councillors. She will do well; but activists do not control the election. All the signs are that the members as a whole are more benignly inclined towards co-operation with Labour than that notoriously good-humouredly stroppy organism, the party conference.

But the other change is a growing recognition that if the outright supporters of co-operation with Labour are to beat Kennedy, they will have to unite. Neil Sherlock, a supporter of the West Country MP Nick Harvey, says in an article in the forthcoming issue of the Blairite publication *Renewal*

that the contest is likely to be for one MP to represent each strand of opinion, enthusiast, cautious supporter and opponent. Which means Ballard, Kennedy and... who? The fact is that of the professed enthusiasts, neither Nick Harvey, whose recent conversion to Europe was too sudden yet to have acquired credibility, nor Don Foster, have much hope of beating the much more charismatic Kennedy.

But Campbell does, in some ways. He would be quite a divisive candidacy since he is firmly in favour of closer co-operation up to and including coalition with Labour. But then his appeal to those who approve of such co-operation would be all the stronger. And oddly his age – he is 57 – should count for him. It is only very recently, in any case, that the madness of thinking that a man is too old to lead a party in his fifties has had any currency. But, as it happens, William Hague is not the best advertisement for the constant call for parties to "skip a generation".

Talks, at least between the Harvey camp and the Campbell camp, are under way. Both Scots are highly attractive for all those who don't actually want to junk the links with Labour. But Campbell, if he ran, would probably have the support of the grandees such as Lord Jenkins, and he represents the clearest-cut approach to closer co-operation with Labour. Nor would it be a disaster for Kennedy if Campbell won. He is young enough to get his teeth into a key area like foreign or home affairs. By doing so he would be in a good position to succeed Campbell when he goes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Above all, no fuss. The future is in God's hands."
Cardinal Basil Hume, announcing that he is dying of cancer

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Don't look back. Something may be gaining on you."
Leroy "Satchel" Paige,
American baseball player



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Sunday papers comment on what to do next in the war in the Balkans

In the war of words that surrounds the tragedy of Yugoslavia, one message must ring out loud and clear: The rapists, murderers and the torturers will be caught, convicted and punished for their inhuman savagery. There will be no hiding place for them. *News of the World*

The aim of this war is to stop Serbian genocide in Kosovo, and to ensure that the Kosovar Albanians can return to their

homes. If we are not prepared to use the only means that will achieve these ends, what is the point of pretending that we care about it? The threat contained in the leaflets dropped by Nato must prove real: "We will," the pamphlets promise the Serbs, "attack you by air; by sea and by land." *The Sunday Telegraph*

This week's hopes are pinned on what former Russian Prime Minister Mr Chernomyrdin can

achieve as he sounds out the combatants for a way forward. Nato's approach must be twin-track – intensifying its military offensive as it is, but talking intensively at the same time.

The Government is in danger of overdoing the former and neglecting the latter. *The Observer*

Nato has sown the wind, but

we can accept the necessity of sending in troops for peace-keeping. But this is very different from actually fighting a ground offensive. Nato must be clear that in preparing for the

former it does not slip into the latter. *Sunday Express*

Britain must be prepared to take in more refugees that just those with relatives already here, or in need of medical attention. With our traditional spirit of generosity towards refugees, we must offer a temporary home to all those who volunteer to come here. *Sunday Mirror*

PANDORA

JAK LIVES! Blower, the *Evening Standard's* maverick cartoonist, has been creating even more chaos on Max Hastings' editorial floor. On 15 April the paper's Blower cartoon showed a van full of our gallant police officers about to press-gang a passing black dude in a misguided effort to improve the Met's ethnic recruitment rate.

But said black dude, instead of being an ordinary fellow, was (commented one *Standard* insider) "grotesquely stereotyped – a caricature of a mugger". As the switchboard lit up like a Christmas tree, the sketch had to be hurriedly redrawn for the paper's later editions.

Prior to this, there was the incident where Blower had an amusing orgiastic scene blanked out because editor Hastings objected to his explicit depiction of nipples.

Funny, didn't Pandora notice a real nipple in the paper earlier this month?

Some readers may remember that Blower's predecessor, Jak, so outraged Ken Livingstone's crew that the old GLC withdrew all its advertising from the paper. A lesson learned?

PARTY PATROL: overheard at Hugh Hefner's birthday bash at his Holmby Hill demesne: "I'm only here for the articles."

A TWIST in the tale of the Hungry Duck, the wild Moscow club that's set to close next week. Owner Doug Steele blamed his jumpin' joint's demise on the "communist mentality".

Now he's specific about exactly which communist he has in mind – it's his landlady, an ex-ballerina who once danced a solo for Stalin. So, we learn, the Dying Swan has killed off the Hungry Duck.

LOSE POUNDS! Pandora's Tiny Booklet of Angst today falls open at the name of Steve Pound (Lab, Ealing North), a prime mover behind a Parliamentary early day motion acknowledging Fulham's promotion to Division One – its syrupy wording salutes the "invaluable support of Mr Mohamed al-Fayed". But Pound's last EDM was peculiar because it called on MPs not to sign EDMs. How nice to see our tax revenues spent on such weighty matters – and so consistently.

DREW BARRYMORE (pictured), Jennifer Aniston and Sandra Bullock are now

sporting a nail polish that reveals where the wearer is in her monthly cycle.

PMS (Polish Mood Shades) nail varnishes are made by a West Coast entrepreneur and are heat-activated: bloated blue changes to pouty pink; tantrum tangerine transforms to man-hating melon; and vexed violet becomes self-centred silver.

This is very good news for the emotionally illiterate: trust Pandora when she tells you that bloated blue means back off quick.

GLOSSY BIBLE *Harpers & Queen* is trying to educate its stiffer subscribers on 21st-century mores. In this month's edition, an etiquette adviser informs readers planning to host a supper for a member of the Millbank Mafia that: "It is acceptable to have a South American helper." What do they mean?

GRADE AAA pests Simon Jenkins, Jonathan Miller, George Walden, Lord Gowrie, and Tariq Ali should put an egg in their collective shoe and beat it.

The weekend whining about Radio Einstein leaves these self-appointed mouthpieces for the chattering classes looking very exposed.

Background: the quintet has just announced its plans for the modestly-named Einstein, a proposed subscription-funded radio station – but are precipitately demanding a national frequency because Einstein's élitist mix would "complement Radio 4".

Big hat but no cattle, guys. Point one: hadn't you noticed that the latest RAJAR numbers showed Radio 4 is winning listeners? Point two: the real media players are already walking your talk – that Irish knight Bob Geldof is flying with 10 Alps, his new radio/TV venture funded by the £4m payday from the Carlton-Planet 24 deal. As well as controlling

Planet 24's existing radio shows on Radio 5 Live and IRN, which Geldof astutely excluded from the deal with Carlton.

10 Alps also plans to find its way on to a dial near you via radio licence applications and acquiring existing radio stations.

"10 Alps is not Planet 24 Mark Two," Geldof declares. "I can't see the point of just being a programme-provider."

WHODATHUNKIT? The London Marathon runner raising funds to fight female circumcision turned out to be... male.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk



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Why Hume is our favourite churchman



RICHARD HARRIES

The manner in which he refers to his death brings out why he will be missed so much by so many

CARDINAL HUME'S announcement that he has terminal cancer is sad for him in one way: it means he will have little, if any time back in his beloved monastery. It is sad for us in many ways. The positive and graceful manner in which he refers to his death – giving thanks that he has time to prepare for it and for his peace of mind – brings out so well why he will be missed so much by so many. For Basil Hume is not only a monk but a man of God. He is palpably sincere in saying, as he has on so many occasions, that he would far rather be back at Ampleforth, with only the occasional game of chess to intrude upon a life of unceasing prayer and worship.

This spiritual priority in his life is reflected in the cardinal's ability to be at once simple and fresh in his teaching: both lucidity itself and arresting. He shares that quality with the late Michael Ramsey (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961 to 1974). People sometimes lament that they would like to hear the old Gospel simplicities. Too often, however, they mean the clichés and platitudes they heard as a child. True simplicity is a quality

for gays and lesbians, because they are no longer being allowed to advertise in the Westminster Diocesan Directory. There has also been a very serious decline in attendance during the cardinal's 23 years in office. Nevertheless, such is the affection in which he is held that the cardinal is not blamed for this in the way that Anglican church leaders are.

No one could doubt that Cardinal Hume is a convinced Catholic. At the same time he has worked with great courtesy and friendliness with other Christian leaders, as well as with people of other faiths. He shares with other Christian leaders and the Chief Rabbi presidency of the Council of Christians and Jews. He has seen this in purely homocentric terms. He has also managed to be political without ever being accused of being party political or of interfering where he had no business. This is partly because of his genuine commitment to the poor, vulnerable and homeless; partly because he has taken up individual cases rather than causes, as did those convicted of the Irish bombings in the Seventies, and partly

because what he says arises out of Catholic social teaching.

A good example of this was the production of *The Common Good* by Catholic bishops before the last general election. On the day it was published, I found myself sitting in the train next to a man who was reading it. He turned out to be a Conservative MP. He told me that he had got halfway through and found nothing to disagree with so far. Later he told me that he did disagree with the paragraph about a minimum wage. Yet, at the same time it had been argued that all that is best in New Labour springs naturally out of this document's teaching.

When discussing House of Lords reform, a number of Peers have said to me that they would like Cardinal Hume to be a member. But there is both an obvious and a deeper reason why this has not happened. The obvious reason is that the Pope has forbidden priests to take part in political legislatures. Although this is primarily directed against left-wing priests in Latin America, it applies no less to membership of the Lords. The deeper reason – and here I speculate – is that part of the

appeal of the Roman Catholic Church in our society at the moment is that it is not part of the establishment. It is distanced from the much-disparaged Church of England. Never the less, the fact that people see a Cardinal Hume-shaped hole in the Lords is one of many signs of the respect in which he is held. This respect is firmly based on the perception that he is both a monk and a man of God (the two are not always the same). That is why his desire to be back living a life of prayer in his old monastery rings so true.

Cardinal Hume has changed the whole feel of English Catholicism. Before his time it seemed to be split into two entirely disparate worlds, the one fashionable, louche and literary – Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene etc – and the other centred on the world of Irish immigrants, with all its stereotypes. The cardinal belongs to neither of these groups – his father was a distinguished doctor – and, by his totally unpretentious manner and spiritual priorities, has kept the Catholic Church firmly in the mainstream of English Christian life.

The author is Bishop of Oxford

Three steps to make the capital a car-free paradise



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Step three: bike depots all over London where users would find shower and changing cubicles

IN EUROPE, perhaps only in Europe, are we returning to cities. London has become a steadily more satisfactory place in which to live and work since I arrived in the Sixties. Now it has a buzz, just like New York. Moreover, for the past 10 years, lots of people have been thinking about cities and how to recover them from the motor car and make them more civilised. Momentum has been established. Experiments are taking place everywhere.

In France, Lyons has removed cars from most of its public squares and put them underground. In Bremen, a specifically car-free housing development has been built. There is a bit of parking for visitors and disabled drivers, but that is all. Instead there is a frequent bus service into the city centre and the money saved from dispensing with roads and garages has been put into bigger homes and better gardens. In Strasbourg, usage of public transport has increased by 30 per cent since a new tram system was introduced in 1994.

Opening this week in London is an exhibition of ideas for a car-free city: it takes place at the Oxo Tower Wharf and is the result of a competition organised by the Architecture Foundation, of which I am a trustee. It asked for visionary and innovative ideas for making central London car-free and for using the space there by made available. Some 205 entries will be on display, among them practical, witty, eccentric and downright barmy ideas from those who believe that banishing the car from city centres is a righteous crusade.

Actually, I think the beginning of wisdom is never to forget the massive advantages which car ownership provides. It is no use simply telling us all to get on our bikes. Unless we are fit, hardy, brave, not wishing to go somewhere with our

family, not shopping, not required to be smartly dressed, the advice is useless. One entry rightly asks: "If the car was unfurled and its desirable attributes were laid out across the city, would you leave your car at home?" The car gets you to work, carries your goods and takes your children to school. It is the yardstick against which all new ideas have to be measured.

Social changes already underway

are helping. Another participant observes that homes are becoming workplaces, workplaces are becoming

recreational meeting points, the bar a living room, the park a back-

yard. For many, the objective is a

situation where every citizen has

his or her home, shops, work and play within 10 minutes' walking distance of each other. In other words, to do without the car we must be more crowded together and planning regulations will have to be adjusted to allow mixed living and working space in city centres at higher densities of occupation. It is better

to be Hong Kong than Welwyn Garden City.

We can also make better use of what we have got. My second favourite entry seeks to exploit personalised information technology to give city dwellers accurate and accessible information about all transport times and options within an individual's local area. "Londonet" is an idea for a digital network which will allow information about goods, services and travel to come to us rather than force us to go to the source. Through hand held devices, info kiosks and the like, Londonet would allow more intelligent planning of the day's tasks.

Making use of information technology is another proposal for tele-shopping. The first part is now familiar: you visit the website of your local supermarket or whatever, review prices and availability and place your orders and pay for them electronically. You would also receive catalogues "delivered by bike". Quite right. The goods are then sent to local pick-up centres where customers find electrically powered trolleys the south bank of the Thames from Greenwich to Battersea. The illustration of the deckway at night is a thing of beauty. Step two: cover some of these special cycle routes so that they are all-weather. Step three: place "bike depots" all over central London where users would find shower and changing cubicles.

However, making greater use of the bicycle gains most attention

from the competition entrants. In the first place, to the bicycle we can add rollerblades and skateboards. Here are the improvements. Step one: create dedicated routes for cyclists. There is a wonderful proposal for a suspended deck running alongside the south bank of the Thames from Greenwich to Battersea. The illustration of the deckway at night is a thing of beauty. Step two: cover some of these special cycle routes so that they are all-weather. Step three: place "bike depots" all over central London where users would find shower and changing cubicles. The water coming from filtered tanks kept topped up by rain from the roofs of adjacent buildings and the heating solar-generated; all very green. In addition, there would be lockers, secure bike racks and bike repair facilities available.

I can well imagine these depots, all aluminium and cloudy glass, sweaty cyclists going in through one door and smartly dressed office workers emerging from the other end, their bikes stored and repaired as they work, ready for pedalling home in the evening. But I don't share the vision. If a substantial need for such facilities developed, surely they would most appropriately be created at the place of work. Companies would certainly find it a cheaper option to providing car parking places.

I have mentioned my second

favourite idea: my favourite is this.

You are walking along the street. It

starts to rain. Immediately the rain canopies, which have sensed the increasing dampness of the air, begin to open up and, like giant umbrellas, spread their protective panels over your path.

You walk on, still dry, past the bike depots, and as you go you encounter shoppers propelling their electric trolleys full of parcels and packages.

You stop to consult your Londonet

gismo and find that the tram which takes you to Victoria Station will be coming shortly. On the other hand, you could catch a later train and use the time to do shopping, taking one of the free busses powered by compressed natural gas. Welcome to a car-free London.

Kosovo is echoed across the world



WRITERS ON THE WAR

WOLE SOYINKA
President of the
International
Parliament of Writers
launches a new series

cy. The assault of the Serbian government on Kosovar writers and intellectuals, scientists and human rights advocates, the callous executions of their most notable figures, immediately bring to mind the gruesome spectacle of the Nigerian writer and activist, Ken Saro-wiwa, and his eight companions, dangling from the gallows. The silencing of individual voices, their routine storage as primary matter for elimination is only a symbolic summation of a wider project of mutilation, even annihilation, of both culture and heritage, of identity and creativity of which such voices are the most committed exponents.

Outside one's personal immediacies, Kosovo also equates the Sudan, where a brutal, intolerant regime has waged similar war against a defiant culture and identity for more than two decades, attempting to cleanse what it considers the stronghold of impurities in religious and cultural doctrines that define the self-perception of one section in opposition to another.

Kosovo, with the marked difference in organisation, systematic planning and focussed

goals, also equates Sierra Leone. The violence against the Sierra Leonean populace by a so-called rebel movement is mind-boggling in its reputation, and its largely undiscriminating mayhem. Yet the selective hunts for, and attacks on the homes of artists and intellectuals – such as the poet and novelist Syl Cheney-Coker, or the assisted escape of the urbane critic and poet

Eldred Jones, helpless because now virtually blind – serve to remind us that the violence of power, even of undiscerning power, constantly launches its primary offensive against the creative mind. Between the clinical methodicalness of a Milesian and the juvenile leadership of the army of marauders that has turned Sierra Leone into a charnel house, we find that there is only a difference in the taste of morbidity.

The scarring of Kosovo is the brand of Cain, incongruous on the face of an elder and sage, that image of what a dying millennium should be, dignified and wise from age and experience. Those who are trained in these afflictions have responded as they must, mustering material aid to the hungry, the sick, the traumatised and the dispossessed. And it is the ultimate responsibility of institutions set up to punish crimes against humanity to pursue those who must be called to account for these deeds. In attempting to efface this new blight we all seek accessible roles, expressions of solidarity and affirmations of common humanity.

For us in the field of culture and the arts – which are certainly mechanics also of self-recovery, identity and self-validation – we have accepted the task of salvaging what we can from the cultural rubble, snatching from zones of incapacitation those targeted, endangered species, the spokesmen and women, the interpreters of such menaced cultures. We have accepted a responsibility to establish and nurture havens of creative sanity throughout the world. It is a project that translates as snatching a seed out of a conflagration, out of the sludge of inundations, preserving it in a safe nursery not only for posterity, but in order to restore the now fortified seedling to its habitual space of germination, where a new cycle of creativity can begin.

The International Parliament of Writers, created by a global network of authors in 1994 in answer to the persecution of writers, has no set stand on the Kosovo war. At the request of its members, however, it is producing a series of individual articles to give voice to their responses.

THE MONDAY REVIEW

Wi

Will they ever return home?



NATASHA WALTER

The belief that Kosovar refugees should return to Kosovo once peace is restored is naive

WHEN ANY politician or journalist looks into a crystal ball for the outcome of this war they see the same picture. At some point in the near future Milosevic will be contained, a peacekeeping force will move into Kosovo, and then the thousands upon thousands of refugees will go back to their towns and villages. If any refuge in other countries is offered to them in the meantime, the word temporary is always tacked on. The *Daily Mail*, in making an unexpected call for asylum in this country for Kosovars, made that very clear: "Britain should offer temporary refuge," it said. "But the sooner the Serbian killing machine is halted the sooner the refugees can start to return, as some day they must."

This attitude means, no doubt, that once the war ends, Britain and all its European partners will start deporting any Kosovar refugees that have slipped in, or cutting off all their means of support. In fact, this government would prefer that none of them get here in the first place. Sometimes ministers say that a few thousand might be allowed in, but more often they deny there is any need for refugees to leave those muddy and crowded camps. Last week, Tony Lloyd said: "Our present position is to keep the refugees in the region. If we are determined to make sure they can go home, they would have to be in the region so they can go back."

But the belief that once peace is declared the refugees should happily walk back to the killing fields of Kosovo is naive. How easy is it to buy a ticket back to the street where your neighbour turned into your torturer, where you were forced on to a bus at gunpoint, where you saw friends and relations killed? After all, Bosnian refugees should have been returning home ever since the Dayton Agreement was signed in 1995. But of around 7,500 who entered Britain up until then, only a few hundred have returned. And it doesn't take much thought to understand why.

Yesterday, I spoke to Adela (not her real name), a 32-year-old journalist who used to live in Sarajevo and came to Britain in 1992. The process for her first application and appeal for refugee

status went on until 1995. "I had got a Croatian passport just in order to leave the country," she said, "and it took me three years to convince the Home Office that I was Bosnian. When I finally convinced them, they turned round and said, 'Well, there's peace in Bosnia now, you have to go home.' They would have deported me immediately but there weren't any flights into Sarajevo just then."

Adela doesn't want to go back, and who can blame her? "There's nothing to go back to," she says. "Everything is destroyed. No one is left there that I know. There is this idea that once you are a refugee you shouldn't be allowed any choice about where you should live, you can just be put on a bus and shipped off to where the governments want you. You stop being a person."

"If we were given a choice, we would go back if it was really safe. But how can we go back when things might fall apart again any time? If you have seen your neighbours and friends turn into enemies who try to kill you, how can you have the trust to go back? It sounds so ideal, that we should all go back. But

when you think about each individual who has to uproot again and go back to who knows what, you know that no westerner would want to go through that themselves."

Adela now wants to make her life in London, but she is living, like most asylum-seekers, in a state of suspended animation, moving from appeal to appeal, from one year's "exceptional leave to remain" to the next. "When you haven't lived a normal life for so long, you appreciate the little things - like getting up and going to work and coming home again, no guns, no bombs," she says longingly. Her longing to be able to put down stable roots is being thwarted by our inability to understand that many refugees will never be able to return to their homelands.

Another Bosnian refugee that I spoke to, a 34-year-old woman whom we'll call Anna, who lives in Coventry, is keener than Adela to return one day - but sees that that day might still be years or decades into the future. "A friend of mine went back last year," she said heavily. "And her child walked on to a mine and had his leg blown off."

Anna was held for months in a

Serb detention camp in 1992, only protected from repeated rapes, she believes, because she was five months pregnant when she was captured. "How would you feel going back?" she says. "Our homes are completely destroyed, our town is now a ghost town. We need some security. I can't go back until Bosnia is truly Bosnian, not half Serbian. But if that day ever comes, how will my children feel about going back?"

Two of them were born here. I feel now I must put their happiness and future before mine."

Although I resent comparisons between Serbian actions and the Holocaust, this realisation that refugees should not be forced to walk back to their old homes as soon as a peace is declared came home to me vividly when I recently made a trip to Germany. It was the first time in my life that I had ever visited Germany, the country my Jewish grandparents fled in 1939, after my grandfather had been imprisoned by the Gestapo. My grandparents were lucky - they got to stay in England for the rest of their lives. But in Hamburg, their old hometown, I met a cousin of theirs who had been

given no choice but to return to Hamburg once the war had ended. Flora Neumann is a tiny, elegant woman of 88. A survivor of Auschwitz, she landed up in Belgium at the end of the war and then went back to Hamburg in 1947, to live next door to the Germans who had stood by while Hamburg was made Judenfrei.

She didn't have much choice. "We were stateless," she explained slowly to me, looking back down more than 50 years. "We couldn't stay in Belgium, because they wouldn't give us work permits. England wouldn't admit us. Life was really hard in Palestine then, and our health was bad. So we came back to Hamburg and stayed."

But it was hardly an easy choice. "I have never felt for one moment since then that Hamburg is a home," she says. Her son is always telling her that when she is dead, he will be off to Israel. Amazingly, she has managed to confront the past, giving lectures about the Holocaust in schools and colleges. "Some of the younger generation will see it," she says. "They send me flowers and cards after I speak to

them. But you still can't discuss it with older people. And even with the young ones, often they look away when I talk. They don't want to think about it, they say, why should we think about it, it wasn't our fault."

I couldn't believe the courage of this frail-looking woman who had faced down the ghosts of such horror, who had lived out the rest of her long life in the very streets where her mother and sister, aunts, uncles, cousins, had been collected up for the trains that took them to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

But, talking to her, I also felt strongly that there are acts of courage that no one should be forced into. As Adela says, refugees are people too, who must make free choices about their futures. If Kosovars don't want to stay in filthy camps on state borders, they should be allowed to move on into other European countries. And we have to accept the fact that asylum may be forever, and recast our ideas about what might happen at the end of this war. When they really feel it's safe, refugees will go home eagerly. Until then, they must be allowed to stay wherever they have fled.



Attila Kisebenyi

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW SMITH



The Employment Minister responds to our recent leader article on help for Clyde shipbuilders

IT IS nonsense to suggest that this Government doesn't take the position of older unemployed workers seriously. You claim that we are not helping older workers because we have not enacted legislation to stop discrimination, but how would such legislation have any bearing on Kværner's decision to sell its interest in Govan and Clydebank?

Not only is the Government already taking action to help Clydeside, we are also tackling unfair age discrimination in employment. Public consultation, including bodies representing older workers and employers, has shown that a Code of Practice is a good way forward in changing attitudes so that employers believe that older workers can and do add value to their business. Hence we will be launching the Code in May and its impact will be fully evaluated to inform any future plans for legislation.

Also, it is simply untrue to say that the New Deal is doing little to help the over-fifties. More than 26,000 people aged 50 and over have started on the New Deal for people aged 25-plus which provides extra help to find work. That is why in last month's Budget we announced still more New Deal help for the over-fifties. People out of work for six months or more and aged over 50 will have access to employment guidance from a personal adviser, jobsearch support, a training grant of up to £750 and a cash credit on entering employment of up to £20 a week for a year. This will help guarantee a minimum income of £170 a week for the first year in full-time employment. Pilots start in October: the programme goes national early next year.

These practical steps will provide a foundation for tackling age discrimination in employment. But the Government cannot change attitudes by itself. Employers and individuals also have a role to play.

Great minds made simpler

MONDAY BOOKS

THE 'INTRODUCING...' SERIES
ICON BOOKS, £8.99 EACH

THERE IS a long tradition in British publishing of self-education books, dating back to the *Teach Yourself* series of the 1940s, designed for the autodidact or that elusive "intelligent general reader". This re-issued and enlarged series in comic-strip form aims to continue that tradition, although some have queried whether, in an age of proliferating universities, there is still anyone left who has fallen through the educational net.

The obvious danger for any such series is of falling between two stools. If the level is made too simple, it will not satisfy readers who already have a nodding acquaintance with the subject; if more advanced, there is the danger of losing readers and failing to qualify as an introduction. Such a series must achieve four objectives: it must hit the optimum point between ease and difficulty; it must provide a lucid account, avoiding all jargon; it must avoid all *partis pris* or hidden agendas; and it should stimulate the reader to tackle further books.

How do the first titles in Icon's re-

designed series stack up against those criteria? In a very mixed bunch, one can identify four categories: those that are almost completely successful; those that are partly so; those that fall through having "lost the plot"; and dire, politically-correct products tricked out with rebarbative jargon.

In the first category, one would have to award pride of place to the pioneering comic-strip introduction to *Marx*, written by the Mexican cartoonist Rius and first published in 1976. But certain volumes do not fall short of his standard. In this category one would place *Psychology* by Nigel C Benson and Freud by Richard A Pignanese and Oscar Zarate. They give the required thumbnail sketch and, in intellectual terms, satisfy Noel

Coward's prescription for the actor: they come on, say their lines, do not bump into the furniture, and get off.

Only slightly less successful is *Mathematics*, a tripartite effort by Ziauddin Sardar, Jerry Ravetz and Boris Van Loon. One's only tiny reservation is that the authors slightly forget their readership in the middle and wander into some quite difficult territory.

One could, however, defend this slight deviation from lucidity on the grounds of giving the reader a flavour of real mathematics.

All these books deal with clear-cut material but with *Feminism*, by Susan Alice Watkins, Marisa Rueda and Marta Rodriguez, we encounter the first real difficulty, in an otherwise useful and interesting guide. This is that



Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Karl Jung

the concept is an umbrella word covering very disparate subject matter. This problem becomes acute in *Postmodernism* by Richard A Pignanese and Chris Garratt - the portmanteau concept par excellence. The author struggles to make sense of a notion so broad, it can cover anything from male strip-teasing to the Millennium bug. Even so, this is a valiant attempt to be even-handed.

The problem of bias makes its appearance in *Jung* by Maggie Hyde and Michael McGuinness. The writer, Maggie Hyde, is an astrologer and committed Jungian and she makes what is unusual to Jung's theory the centrepiece of her exposition. Jung was interested in the paranormal and made a number of tentative suggestions on such matters as ghosts, astrology and even UFOs. Maggie Hyde elevates this aspect, which even many of Jung's admirers are dubious about, to a position of centrality. This gives a very distorted view of the Swiss psychologist. The flaws merely underline the general truth that the author of an introductory guide should be a detached observer and not a player in the drama. We do not expect an objective view of *Sartre*, *Private Ryan* or us if we ask Tom Hanks for a critique.

Einsteini, by Joseph Schwartz and Michael McGuinness, is a good ex-

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MONDAY POEM

VENICE
BY NOEL COWARD

Last Wednesday on the Piazza
Near San Marco's trecento Duomo
I observed una grassa ragazza
With a thin, Middle Western uomo.

He was swatting a piccola mosca
She was eating a choeniate gelato
While an orchestra played from *La Tosca*
A flat violin obbligato.

They stared at a dusty piccione
They spoke not a single parola
She ordered some *Te con limone*
He ordered an iced Coca-Cola.

And while the tramonto del sole
Set fire to the Grande Canale
She scribbled haphazard parole
On glazed cartoline postale.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Noël Coward's *'Collected Verse'*, published by Methuen (£8.99) to mark the centenary of Coward's birth

Bobby Roberts

TWO MONTHS before his death, Bobby Roberts senior was handed the first-ever British circus "Oscar", for a Lifetime of Circus Achievement, presented to him at the International Circus Reunion by the showmen's newspaper, *The World's Fair*. It commemorated a career in the sawdust ring which began three-quarters of a century ago as a boy rider and clown, culminating in his having served for many years as Honorary President of the Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain.

For almost four decades, Bobby Roberts and his brother Tommy ran one of the most popular family travelling circuses in the British Isles, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are continuing family traditions with their own shows. In their early days, the Roberts brothers were as well known "on the balls" throughout the circuit of British variety theatres as they were in circuses.

Their father Paul Otto, a continental tumbler, came to Britain in the 20th century, and married Mary Fossett, one of the sisters of a famous circus proprietor, Sir Robert Fossett, with whom he appeared. Bobby was born in 1912 at Kingsthorpe, near Northampton, where the Fossett show had its winter home, his brother arriving two years later. Called Robert Otto Fossett, Bobby later changed his surname to Roberts, as did Tommy, and it was with Robert Brothers Circus that they later gained fame.

Bobby's first apprenticeship in the circus was as a juvenile clown, and by the time he was 11 he had a solo bareback riding act at Sir Robert Fossett's Circus. The brothers were both versatile, and appeared in riding acts, aerial numbers and in an acrobatic horizontal bar act with which they later toured "the halls".

At the beginning of the 1930s, they worked in their parents' own small tenting circus, known as Otto's Victoria Circus, then with Rosalie's Circus, and eventually joined Chapman's Circus, one of the leading shows of the era. With Chapman they tented, and appeared on the stage in Chapman's extensive winter tours in the many variety theatres Britain then possessed. Chapman adopted the title "Hip-Hip-Zoo-Ray" for his stage ventures, and, when they launched their own stage show later on, the Roberts brothers took the same title, and the same colour scheme, red and yellow, for their tenting circus.

As speciality work had taken them much into the theatre, it seemed natural that both brothers should marry music-hall artists. Bobby in 1941 taking as his bride Kitty Mednick, a member of a family musical act, the Norman Sisters and Michael. Their first son, Bobby junior, was born the following year. With their wives, Bobby and Tommy worked at the Blackpool Tower Circus and the Blackpool Palace Theatre in 1942 before the brothers went into the National Fire Service, being stationed in Edinburgh. After being discharged 18 months later, Bobby ended up with Harry Coady's Circus before joining the stage tour of Don Ross's Colossal Combined Circuses. Ross being the husband and agent of the music-hall star Gertie Gitana.

Early in 1944, with a partner,

Billy Mack, Bobby and Tommy decided to form their own travelling circus to take entertainment to wartime entertainment-starved audiences. It opened under the improbable title of Otto Brothers Madras Express and Tropical Circus, and one of their biggest problems proved to get enough petrol coupons to move the show during wartime rationing.

By this time the brothers had branched out into animal training and the title was changed to Robert Brothers' Mammoth Zoo-Circus; the arrival of their first elephant, from Dudley Zoo in 1946, was a turning-point. Their show fared particularly well in Scotland, and soon they were producing animal acts for other shows, for Don Ross, Captain Prince-Coxe, Billy Smart and Sanger.

Later they would send their animals to prestigious engagements at Blackpool Tower, Belle Vue Manchester, and the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow and to many of Europe's leading tenting circuses. Bobby Roberts specialised in training horses, ponies, elephants, dogs and llamas, while Tommy also became known for wild animals. In the summer they travelled under canvas and in winter the Robert Brothers' Hip-Hip-Zoo-Ray Circus was featured in all the leading variety theatre circuits, and they were soon employing a large number of animal trainers, clowns and specialty acts, many of whom were in their service for many years.

In 1950, Bobby Roberts saved the life of one of his trainers, Carl Fischer, when a lion jumped on his back, but unfortunately neither brother was on hand to save the life of another lion trainer, the Frenchman René Ruellot, who had rashly gone into the cage with his animals before becoming fully conversant with them. Such incidents are, happily, rare in the circus world and the Roberts Brothers enjoyed decades of success and few mishaps. One strange thing happened to them on the Continent when visiting a circus. They were arrested by police who believed them to be the Russian spies Burgess and MacLean.

Bobby and Kitty's daughter Maureen was born in 1951 and by the early 1960s they were not only producing a tenting circus and a stage show that played the Moss Empires' circuit, but also had a summer circus at the Festival Gardens in Battersea Park and another at Douglas, Isle of Man. In the 1950s, Bobby's first son was making his debut in the



Bobby, left, and Tommy Roberts on a Robert Brothers programme, 1962

at a wildlife park at Thorney Abbey at the end of the 1960s. Their circus was the first to appear at the Roundhouse in Camden Town, London, but the season there was marred by a female high-wire artiste's falling some 30 feet to the ring, sustaining a broken arm and leg.

By the early 1970s, they had a dozen or more elephants and a string of horses, ponies and exotic animals, more than enough for the show's own needs; its engagements at prestigious circuses in England

draw for Bertram Mills' Circus since the 1930s.

Bobby and Tommy pulled off a significant coup in 1978, while their animal acts were appearing at the Brighton Centre Circus in Sussex. Billy Smart's Circus, after a quarter-century of television shows for the BBC, had defected to ITV, and the brothers were able to obtain the lucrative contract for themselves.

Christmas and Easter television recordings made theirs a household name; soon they were also providing

for Bertram Mills' Circus since the 1930s. Bobby and Kitty were able to oversee their sons' achievements. In the winter of 1992-93, the partnership of Bobby junior and Tommy junior was ended, and today Bobby travels his own traditional circus, Bobby Roberts' Super Circus, around the country, while Tommy presents his horses and ponies at Zippo's, London's Favourite Circus.

Bobby Roberts's death marks the end of another era of the history of circus, created in Britain in 1768. The rise of his travelling empire came at the time when entertainment was most needed, in those dark, final days of war, and he was able to enjoy the initial boom years after it. The show weathered a general decline in show business as television took its bold of the public's interest, and Roberts used the new medium to popularise his show nationwide. His circus was also one of the last great tenting outfits producing performing animals on a grand scale in Britain.

D. NEVILLE

Robert Otto Fossett (Bobby Roberts), circus performer and circus proprietor; born Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire 5 July 1912; married 1941 Kitty Mednick (two sons, one daughter); died Oundle, Northamptonshire 5 April 1999.

The Roberts brothers travelled in many guises. During the Second World War they went under the improbable title of Otto Brothers Madras Express and Tropical Circus

and on the Continent. Bobby Roberts junior and his younger brother Tommy had taken over the show of elephants, horses and ponies, and their father was taking a back seat. By the 1970s, with the big circuses of Billy Smart and Bertram Mills no longer on the road, Roberts' was becoming not just one of the biggest family outfits, but one of the bigger shows touring in England, and even featured the great clown Coco, who had been a

ing the facilities for the annual Circus World Championships held in London, and televised around the world.

As the families of both Bobby and Tommy Roberts grew, it was decided that the brothers should divide their assets and create two tenting circuses. Bobby, in 1982, formed the Roberts Brothers Super Circus with his sons, while Tommy and his family traded as Robert Brothers' Famous Circus, although they continued to share winter quarters at

Oundle. In semi-retirement, Bobby and Kitty were able to oversee their sons' achievements. In the winter of 1992-93, the partnership of Bobby junior and Tommy junior was ended, and today Bobby travels his own traditional circus, Bobby Roberts' Super Circus, around the country, while Tommy presents his horses and ponies at Zippo's, London's Favourite Circus.

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Giulio Einaudi

TO HIS critics, the publisher Giulio Einaudi was a pawn of the Italian Communist Party. But, writing after Einaudi's death, the literary historian Alberto Asor Rosa placed this giant of Italy's independent publishing world in a very different light: "When the stupid accusations of subservience to the Communist Party's cultural policy die down, it will become perfectly clear that Giulio Einaudi was not a product of Italy's left-wing culture: on the contrary, he created it himself."

He began doing so in his early twenties when, with Mussolini's Fascists firmly in power, he abandoned his medical studies at Turin University to work alongside his father Luigi, an eminent economist and editor of the liberal, anti-Fascist magazine *Riforma Sociale* ("Social Reform"). The young Giulio had been educated at D'Aeglio high school in Turin, both of anti-Fascist sentiment, and by his father, whose staunch defence of civil liberties throughout the Fascist period would lead to his election in 1948 as first president of the newborn Italian republic.

Little wonder, then, that Giulio Einaudi saw fit to pad out *Riforma Sociale* with a cultural supplement, edited by Cesare Pavese, which was deemed so subversive by the Mussolini regime that the whole operation was closed down and the



Einaudi: 'The more heated the argument, the more fun he had'

staff arrested in 1935. Into prison with Einaudi (who was released after a few weeks) went colleagues who would become the brightest stars in Italy's post-war literary and philosophical firmament: Vittorio Foa, Massimo Mila, Carlo Levi, Pavese and Norberto Bobbio.

By that time, a handful of books had appeared under the label of Giulio Einaudi Editore, with its os-trich trademark which remains the Einaudi logo to this day. The first was a translation by Luigi Einaudi of Henry A. Wallace's *What America Wants* in 1933. In a delicate balance

ing act which kept Einaudi's publications just on the right side of what the regime's censors would tolerate, non-fiction would be followed throughout the remaining Fascist period by translations of foreign classics from Goethe to Defoe, by annotated editions of Italian classics, and, in 1941, by contemporary fiction, beginning with Pavese's *Pazie tuoi* ("Your Countries").

With the Second World War over, Einaudi's shoestring operation mushroomed to fill the void left by the demise of pro-regime publishing houses.

Anything savouring even mildly of the right was anathema in Italy's post-Mussolini anti-Fascist fervour. Einaudi stepped in to give the nation the left-wing renaissance it craved, and with the same unerring eye for spotting talented youngsters which he was to retain to the end, he gave publishing breaks to newcomers like Natalia Ginzburg and Elsa Morante, Italo Calvino and Primo Levi. As his father took his place in the presidential palace, Einaudi assumed the role of elder statesman of the Italian literary world.

Known as "il principe" ("the prince") for his distinguished looks and his refusal to brook any *l'esercito* from his employees (only Pavese and Italo Calvino ever dared contradict him), Einaudi was depicted in innumerable anecdotes as

an insufferable snob. Crossing into Switzerland with a band of Italian partisans during the civil war which followed Mussolini's downfall in 1943, one such story goes, Einaudi was forced to stand trial, ordered to declare bankruptcy, and condemned to death. His publishing house passed into the hands of one of the industrial giants he so despised. In 1944, the company was taken over by Mondadori, a publishing conglomerate controlled by the right-wing former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

In 1983, as the final financial storm was brewing over the independent Einaudi publishing house, its founder's reaction was true to character: he produced what he described as "a perfect book", a complete catalogue of titles published by the company since 1933. The catalogue is a near-exhaustive list of the greatest writers of post-war Italy.

Of the pre-war generation which worked with Einaudi from the start, "only he and I were still going", recalled the political philosopher Norberto Bobbio. "He loved arguments, and the more heated they were, the more fun he had," said Corrado Vianati, another Einaudi stalwart.

Einaudi's high-handed manner extended to finances. "For 50 years, he lived on the verge of economic crisis," wrote the ex-banker Neri Nesi of his troublesome former client. When Nesi refused yet an-

other bail-out in the early Eighties, a "frank exchange of views" took place, which reverberated for years afterwards. Nesi accepted. Einaudi was forced to stand trial, ordered to declare bankruptcy, and condemned to death. His publishing house passed into the hands of one of the industrial giants he so despised. In 1944, the company was taken over by Mondadori, a publishing conglomerate controlled by the right-wing former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

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Jacqueline Guy

PICTURE RESEARCH is a special art, demanding creativity to conceive and match illustrations as commentaries and enhancements to the texts they attach to, and then dogged hard work to track them down. Jackie Guy, who had a career of over 30 years as picture researcher and art editor to the magazine *History Today*, was a peerless practitioner in the field.

Hers was a classic tale of the autodidact. Born Jacqueline Needham in Chester at the start of the Blitz, with a convent schooling that for all its harsh regime gave her a solid grounding in the three R's, she started work as a secretary in solicitors' offices in Chester, and then got a similar job when making the move south.

London in the Swinging Sixties made an ideal growth hormone, to the end of her life she responded enthusiastically to the stimulations of metropolitan life and culture could offer. The latest play at the Barbican would be trenchantly discussed by her over coffee at her desk the next day – and it was entirely appropriate that her last outing, 10 days before she died, was to see the Ian McKellen film *Gods and Monsters*.

The other crucial conjunction of time and place was her joining in 1968 the history magazine launched by Brendan Bracken in 1951 on the back of the *Financial Times*, and then still presided over by the founding editorial double act of Alan Hodge and Peter Quennell. The 11th Earl of Derby was *History Today's* patron at the FT during those years, remarked in a 1979 festschrift for Peter Quennell that "History Today was fortunate from the start in its choice of intelligent young ladies who had the task of selecting illustrations for every issue". Jackie Guy was one of them.

Her first "cover" (which always illustrated one of the articles inside – as is still true to this day) was of an imposing and colourful effigy of Margaret, Countess of Lennox – commissioned from a dramatic over-head angle that must have given the photographer pause for thought to life and limb. As she grew into the job so casually acquired as *History Today's* picture researcher and expanded her skill and knowledge in the 1970s, Guy took full advantage of the generous budget then available via the FT empire to commission ambitious photography – and to send in to major museums, churches and galleries as was then possible to do, her own photographs. The core of *History Today's* own picture archive now stands as tribute to that foresight and to the skills of photographers such as John Freeman and AF Kersting.

It was hardly surprising that Jackie Guy became the keeper of the flame for *History Today* – able to retail wonderful raffish anecdotes of Peter Quennell but also to sustain that sense of family in a small office. It was always Guy who had ideas for the New Year party location or chivvied presents into an office Christmas lucky bag. She was generous of her time to contributors

– convivial and social qualities well on display when we developed collaboration with the Russian history magazine *Rodina* and its editors were invited to supper at her Kensington flat. She had a great gift for friendship.

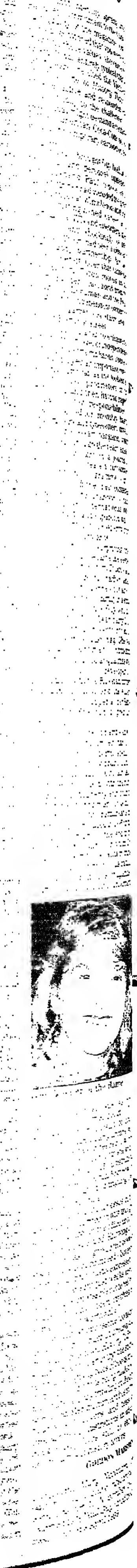
She drove herself hard – and responded to being driven hard. The products were wonderful special issues suffused with vibrant illustrations, like the Age of Chivalry issue produced in tandem with the mammoth Royal Academy exhibition in 1987 and featuring many of its choice exhibits, or the remarkable tripartite issue produced in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War – for which Guy juggling illustrations, texts in translation and common illustrations flowing in from the magazine's German and Russian counterparts.



Guy: keeper of the flame

Her catchphrase was so often "I'm awfully worried about..." as she set out in pursuit of cover ideas or a particularly arcane subject, but she never needed to worry: regularly month by month she would produce up to 200-250 illustrations from which an eventual 50 or 60 were selected – varied, intriguing and always appropriate.

Throughout the illnesses of her last year, she carried on with true grit and was active in the office until 10 days before she died. Knowing that she had at last to give up her beloved vocation was hard indeed – but tempered with pride justly expressed in a letter she sent just weeks previously – "It's impossible not to feel honoured to have been involved in something so worthwhile."



Slavko Curuvija

ON 11 April at 4.51 pm, two masked men killed the journalist and newspaper proprietor Slavko Curuvija in front of his own house in Belgrade. Few political killings in wartime Serbia measure up to the loss of such a prominent and respected public figure. And the symbolic value of the act is even more ominous if the sacred cows of the Serbian elite are not safe, then who is? The threat to Belgrade's intelligentsia comes not simply from Tomahawk missiles, but from what will happen after the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia.

Curuvija, who owned two Yugoslav publications, *Dnevi Telegraf* ("Daily Telegraph") and *Europjanin* ("European"), was not a man to be scared easily. A crackdown on the Serbian independent media in mid-October last year put many off, but not him. He continued to publish blunders perpetrated by both the opposition and the government. The story goes that in closed sessions of the Serbian parliament Curuvija and his newspaper were almost continuously on the agenda.

Media legislation was hastily passed with a specific clause condemning criticism as "attacks on the constitutional order" of Yugoslavia. A few private papers folded while others - to say the least - toned down their reporting. But not *Dnevi Telegraf*. Curuvija didn't back off even though he was fined four times in October and November 1998, amounting to a total of some £200,000. His office was emptied and sealed - he found another office. Printed copies of the paper were seized - he started printing it in Montenegro.

Born in 1949 in Zagreb, Croatia, Slavko Curuvija was a striking figure in every sense of the word: authoritative, courageous, successful. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade in 1976 and spent the next two years studying political sociology. Between 1977 and 1984 he was a junior assistant at the Centre for Social Research in Belgrade. What then followed was a meteoric rise in the fourth estate, from career journalist to press baron. The first article he submitted to the influential weekly *NIN* in 1983 made a cover story.

Curuvija spent a large part of his career (1986-94) at the Belgrade daily *Borba*, working his way up from staff journalist to foreign correspondent and editor-in-chief. From the early 1980s he regularly contributed to other major Yugoslav publications, such as *Danas* and *NIN*, as well as to those abroad, including *The European*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. He wrote *Iberian* (1990), a study of political persecution in Yugoslavia. He was everything a young apprentice would look up to.

Media coups were common in socialist Yugoslavia. Up to the mid-1990s the state financed each and every publication, and officials decided when they felt they were too critical or conspicuously anti-regime. This is precisely what happened to *Borba* in 1994 when Curuvija was the editor-in-chief. The all-too-liberal *Borba* was forced to change its outlook overnight, so Curuvija and his colleague Momčilo Djordović decided to establish their own weekly, called *Nedeljni Telegraf* ("Weekly Telegraph"). It was the first privately owned paper in Yugoslavia, and was an overnight success. Unlike most of the 1990s Serbian *nouveaux riches*, who dealt with straightforward merchandise, Curuvija and Djordović earned their fortune with an idea.

In a couple of years, Curuvija earned enough money to retire. But he decided instead on an even bigger venture: a political daily. He left his partnership with Djordović and in 1996 launched *Dnevi Telegraf*. Its motto was "sensational, exclusive, scandalous". Such a combination helped to create a circulation of 75,000, the third largest in the country. While *Nedeljni Telegraf* had been a commercial venture, its successor strove to

He launched *Dnevi Telegraf* in 1996. Its motto was 'sensational, exclusive, scandalous'

be respectable. When I asked Curuvija if he would describe his tabloid paper as a Yugoslav *Sun*, he was almost offended. "No, it's more like *The Independent*," he said. In fact, it was both: *Dnevi Telegraf* published political scandals and at the same time had a think-tank of the best columnists in the country on its payroll. Together with the news magazine *Europjanin*, it was part of a company that was worth more than £3m.

Curuvija never discouraged gossip about his connections in high places. "That way they leave me alone," he used to say to his confidants. In fact, the furthest he got involved with political hierarchy was exchanging a few words with Mira Marković, Milosević's wife, over the telephone and going sailing with Radovan Božović, a member of the ruling Serbian Socialist Party. And that is

as close to the Serbian regime as he ever wanted to be. In 1984 he had had a job as an analyst in the Federal Police - but he was kicked out after two years for speaking his mind.

In late 1998, however, sly political manoeuvring or mere bluff wouldn't work. In William Randolph Hearst style, Curuvija engaged in direct confrontation with the Serbian oligarchy. Together with the journalist Aleksandar Tijanac he published the most daring critique of President Milosević ever to appear in the Serbian press, calling on him to resign and siding with the Montenegrin liberal Milo Đukanović. He appeared in the US Congress and before the Political Affairs Committee of Europe.

Under the circumstances, this was enough to be accused of high treason. On top of it, Curuvija printed quantities

of stories about politicians that nobody else dared to print. With these actions he created some powerful enemies: Vojislav Seselj, leader of the nationalist Radical Party, and the Vice-Premier Milovan Bojić, to name but two.

Today, it is the same Western countries Curuvija asked for help that are bombing Serbia. It is time for heroes: Serbs who want to defend their homeland end up in trenches facing cluster bombs; while those who, against all odds, fight for a better, more democratic and prosperous tomorrow, end up with a bullet in the back.

JAN DEVRIES

Slavko Curuvija, journalist and publisher: born Zagreb, Yugoslavia 9 August 1949; (one son, daughter); died Belgrade 11 April 1999.



Curuvija: shot dead outside his house in Belgrade

BIRTHDAYS

Mr William Baillie, President, Royal Scottish Academy, 76; The Most Rev Luigi Barbaro, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 77; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player, 43; Mr Harold (Dickie) Bird, cricket umpire, 66; Mr Algy Cliff, chairman and chief executive, Cluff Mining, 58; Mr Adrian Coles, Director-General, Building Societies Association, 45; Mr Tim Curry, actor, 53; Mr Glynn England, former chairman, Windcluster Ltd, 78; Mr Trevor Francis, footballer, 45; Dr Norman Godman MP, 61; Sir Denis Henry, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 68; Mr Philip Hope MP, 44; Sir John Horlock, professor of engineering, Open University, 71; Mrs Margo MacDonald, broadcaster, 55; Mr Dudley Moore, actor, 64; Mr Garfield Morgan, actor, 68; Mr Hugh O'Brian, actor, 74; Mr Jonathan Owen Jones MP, a Lord Commissioner, 45; Mr Murray Peralta, pianist, 52; Mr Alan Price, singer, 57; Sir John Roca, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 65; Mr Michel Roux, chef de cuisine, 58; Mr Martin Salter MP, 45; Mr Peter Scott QC, 64; Mr Andrew Stott, chief executive, British Touring Authority, 56; Mr Wilf Stevenson, director, British Film Institute, 52; Miss Bridget Towie, 72.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Giuseppe Catrufo, composer, 1711; David Ricardo, economist, 1772; John Phillip, painter, 1817; Edward John Grey, philosopher, 1850; Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, philosopher, 1857; Sydney Francis Barnes, cricketer, 1873; Getulio Vargas, Brazilian president, 1883; Richard Arthur Warren Hughes, novelist, 1900; Jayne Mansfield (Vera Jayne Palmer), actress, 1933.

Deaths: Pope Leo IX, 1054; Robert II, King of Scotland, 1390; Philipp Melanchthon (Schwarzer), church reformer, 1560; Paul Veronese (Cagnola), painter, 1588; Thomas Sowville, first Earl of Dorset, poet and statesman, 1608; Anton van Diemen, colonial administrator, 1645; Queen Christina of Sweden, 1689; Nicholas Sounderville, mathematician, 1739; Richard Price, nonconformist minister and writer, 1791; Benjamin

Chief Guide, the Guide Association, 57; The Hon Michael Tread MP, 47; Miss Rita Wax, actress, writer and television presenter, 61; Mr Andrew Welsh MP, 55; Mr Philip Wroughton, Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire, 66.

Rush, physician and abolitionist, 1813; George Gordon Noel Byron, Lord Byron, poet, 1824; Sir Robert Smirke, architect, 1867; Owen Jones, architect, 1874; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman and novelist, 1881; Charles Robert Darwin, biologist, 1882; Warren De La Rue, astronomer and chemist, 1889; John Addington Symonds, critic and poet, 1893; Sir George Scharf, art critic, 1896; Pierre Curie, chemist and physicist, 1906; Hugo Winkler, archaeologist, 1913; Charles Pierce, philosopher and scientist, 1914; Sir Squire Bancroft (Butterfield), actor-manager, 1926; William Martin Conway, first Baron Conway, art critic and mountaineer, 1937; Sir Henry John Newbolt, poet and writer, 1938; Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, 14th Baron Berners, composer, 1950; Konrad Adenauer, statesman, 1967; Franklin Howard (Francis) Howard, 1953.

On this day: Sir Francis Drake

sailed into the harbour of Cadiz

and sank the Spanish fleet at

harbour - he called this "singe-

ing the King of Spain's beard";

1588; the Treaty of London was

signed, under which Belgium

became an independent king-

dom, and Luxembourg, a Grand

Duchy, 1839; Planquette's opera

Ridiculous, 1841.

14...exds isn't absolutely ab-

surd though 15 Rae1 + Be6 16

It is very dangerous indeed eg

Qb6+ 17 Rf2 0 (Black should

Ke7? Ke7! Rae1 Qe5 19

Qb4+ Kb5 20 Rh3? leads only

to a draw after bxc6 21 Rb+ (21

Re3 Qb5 doesn't change the re-

sult) Kgb2 22 Rg3+ Kf8 23 Rf+

Kg5 24 Rg3+ - but not 24 Qe7?

h5 25 Qxf7+ Kh7 when Black is

wining.

But in the notes which he

kindly e-mailed to me Dan sug-

gests that 15...Qxd2 is more

critical, eg 16 Rfd1 Qxf7 17

Bxc6+ Ke7? 18 Rae1 Qe5 19

Qb4+ Kb5 20 Rh3? leads only

to a draw after bxc6 21 Rb+ (21

Re3 Qb5 doesn't change the re-

sult) Kgb2 22 Rg3+ Kf8 23 Rf+

Kg5 24 Rg3+ - but not 24 Qe7?

h5 25 Qxf7+ Kh7 when Black is

wining.

Today's game from the

Swiss League also has an

admixture of pride since

Korchnoi's team Zurich had

deliberately put him on second

board in order to play King whom he had beaten twice

previously; they had second-

guessed Winterthur who had

moved King down, precisely in

an attempt to avoid Viktor!

And some postprandial anger

as the loser stomped off,

though we all feel that to some

extent, after defeat.

In the opening, 11...Bxd4,

12 Qb3! Nc6; 13 Bxf5 Nxf5

14...exds isn't absolutely ab-

surd though 15 Rae1 + Be6 16

It is very dangerous indeed eg

Qb6+ 17 Rf2 0 (Black should

Ke7? Ke7! Rae1 Qe5 19

Qb4+ Kb5 20 Rh3? leads only

to a draw after bxc6 21 Rb+ (21

Re3 Qb5 doesn't change the re-

sult) Kgb2 22 Rg3+ Kf8 23 Rf+

Kg5 24 Rg3+ - but not 24 Qe7?

h5 25 Qxf7+ Kh7 when Black is

wining.

After 16 Rfd1 Black was al-

ready in serious trouble since

If 16...Nes? 17 Bg5; or 16...

017 Bb4! or 16...Nds 17 Qc4 e5

18 Bb4! traps the king in the

centre. So Korchnoi jettisoned his queen but King's cal

technique prevailed with

out too many problems: along

the way, if 20...b6 21 Qh3!

White 21 Bxf7? Bxf7 would

have imperilled the win.

White: Dan King

Black: Viktor Korchnoi

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 Qb3 Nc6

3 d4 d5 4 c3 Nf6

5 Nf3 e5 6 Nc3 Bb4

7 exd5 Nxd5 8 Bc2 Bb4

9 Bb2 Nf6 10 Qd2 Qd6

11 a3 Bf6 12 Qd3 Qf6

13 Qd2 Qf6 14 Nf3 Bf6

15 Qd3 Qf6 16 Rfd1

17 Bg5 Bf6 18 Rfd1

19 Rfd1 Bf6 20 Qd3 Rf7

21 Qd3 Rf7 22 Rfd1

23 Rfd1 Rf7 24 Rfd1

25 Rfd1 Rf7 26 Rfd1

27 Rfd1 Rf7 28 Rfd1

29 Rfd1 Rf7 30 Rfd1

MANDELSON: THE BIOGRAPHY



He has been described variously as the Architect of New Labour and The Prince Of Darkness. Peter Mandelson is one of the most controversial and complex political figures of our age, and in the first extract from a new biography, Donald Macintyre reveals the bitter clash that threatened to blow the party asunder and traces the roots of Mandelson's fall



Anatomy of a 'Titanic feud'

It was at Chewton Glen, a five-star hotel in Hampshire, early in September 1994 and less than two months after Tony Blair became party leader, that some of New Labour's tennest minds assembled in total secrecy to discuss the challenges ahead. On the evening before the transforming session, Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson dined together with the express intention of seeing how the party would now be organised. Brown had arrived with several proposals for changes of personnel – including the installation of Michael Wills as deputy general secretary at Walworth Road. Blair was not keen on the idea, and Brown, expecting Mandelson to show the kind of support which could have been automatic a year or two earlier, was disappointed instead to find that he was on his own: Mandelson argued with his characteristic caution that more time for thought was needed.

After Blair went to bed, Brown and Mandelson stayed up for a nightcap. According to an account subsequently given by Mandelson in confidence to a third party, Brown asked him why he hadn't backed him. He replied that he was not opposing Brown but that "we had to think things through carefully": Brown had argued that if they were both in agreement, Blair would always take their advice. Mandelson then said that his loyalty to Brown was not in question, but that he was "not going to get into some sort of alliance to outmanoeuvre Tony", at which point, he insisted, Brown replied: "Choose for yourself" – or words to that effect.

Mandelson dated the breach in his close bond with Brown from the leadership crisis in May when Mandelson eventually threw his support behind Blair, but from that conversation in September. This cannot, at most, have been more than partially correct. Relations had been under severe strain since the tensions over the leadership contest which had followed John Smith's death. Nevertheless, it had seemed to Mandelson, until the Chewton Glen conference in September, that the relationship was separable; it was severely threatened but not yet fully ruptured. But Mandelson now interpreted Brown as demanding a degree of personal loyalty which would outweigh, in relatively rare moments of dispute, his loyalty to the leader. The great Machiavellian had behaved in rather un-Machiavellian ways.

Had Mandelson simply agreed at this point to back Brown, then the next two-and-a-half years might have gone more smoothly than they did. Indeed, when Mandelson told Blair about the conversation a year or so later, Blair suggested that this is what he should have done.

By the beginning of 1995, according to one of his closest members of staff, Blair himself would repeatedly – "sometimes several times a day" – ask "Why, oh why, can't my two best people get on with each other?" Although the troubles between Brown and Mandelson did not fully surface publicly until May 1996, they had certainly been worrying Blair since the turn of the year of 1994-5.

The first real clash came over the structure of the campaign for the 1997 General Election. While Mandelson willingly ceded overall strategic command to Brown, Blair was determined that he should nevertheless have a key role. Jonathan Powell, Blair's chief of staff, used all his considerable tact and diplomatic skill to bring about an agreement, but a prolonged power struggle then ensued between Mandelson and Brown over just how key this role would be. The argument raged on throughout the spring and summer.

So much so that at one point Mandelson wrote to Blair suggesting that the attempt at reunifying the two of them be abandoned. Saying that he had been "thinking hard" about "my position in our weird and wonderful firmament", he added: "Whatever the long-term prospect of Gordon reconciling himself to my role in relation to you, I do not believe this is going to happen now. Forcing it is going to aggravate the situation. I fear it will produce further confrontations between the two of you, which are very destructive to your future relationship with him, which is the pivotal one for the success of your government."

Mandelson also touched on a problem which went further than his



Peter Mandelson appeared to be unable on occasion to contain his frustration at what he saw as his rejection by Gordon Brown

relations with Brown: that of being part of the inner leadership circle while holding down a relatively junior front-bench job. "From your point of view, it is difficult and embarrassing to cast the 'leader's little helper' in a way that is acceptable to everybody else. But I think neither of us has confronted the barrier to this of my being an MP a new one, with all the sensitivities and hierarchical implications of this... There is no question of me ceasing to act as your friend and adviser. I am always thinking of you. I will do anything you ask of me. You are the most important thing to have happened for our party and the country. But we have to face up to the fact that we cannot go on like this."

It would now, Mandelson suggested, be better for him to pursue his career in a "more normal way". Not for the first, nor last time, Blair patiently talked through Mandelson's concerns, persuaded him to stay in the team, and continued the daunting search for a way to get round the problem.

The 10-month wrangle over Brown's and Mandelson's role in election planning was finally resolved in October 1995. But this did little to help Mandelson's relations with Brown, which were already outstandingly dysfunctional, given that they shared a common purpose. At meetings, Mandelson would complain, Brown frequently behaved as if he wasn't there. If, indeed, he responded at all to points made by Mandelson, he addressed his remarks solely to Blair, or, more time-consuming, intimated that he would discuss a particular issue with him later, when Mandelson and Alastair Campbell were not present. Brown, for his part, was apparently worried that, if he had persuaded Blair on a particular course of action, Mandelson might then perniciously take a contrary view just for the sake of it.

Nor was it all one-sided. Mandelson remained convinced that Brown could not, or would not, accept his own independent advisory role. But one occasional observer of

Mandelson's behaviour at larger meetings, chaired by Brown, said he had "got away with murder" in his acid and contemptuous asides.

The issues of substance which divided Brown and Mandelson were real, but by no means as many as the chronic tensions between them might have suggested. One was the question of a new top rate of tax. From 1995, Brown was certainly in favour of this, and Blair instinctively against it. Mandelson, with the strong backing of Philip Gould (a key Blair consultant), opposed it because he was convinced, like Blair, that it would send to the voters a subliminal signal that Labour

was the Shadow Chancellor. But it was impossible to escape the conclusion that the differences could have been resolved with much less bitterness if there had not been more emotional factors rooted in the traumatic events of 1994.

In Mandelson's view, Brown could not accept that "Being Peter" meant that Mandelson's duty was to provide Blair with independent advice. Yet Mandelson appears to have been unable on occasions to contain his feelings of frustration and anger at what he saw as his rejection by Brown. When he felt slighted yet again by Brown at a meeting on 9 May 1996, something snapped.

Dear Tony,
I am very sorry that your meet-

ing had actually been bleeped by someone at Millbank, and had gone out to return the call, inadvertently allowing the door to slam behind him. In a sense it hardly mattered, because he did not return, leaving his colleagues temporarily silent and nonplussed.

En route to an international conference in Prague, however, Mandelson had fanned the flames with a letter, dated 9 May, resigning as election manager at Millbank and, in effect, as a member of Blair's inner circle.

Dear Tony,
I am very sorry that your meet-

ing had actually been bleeped by someone at Millbank, and had gone out to return the call, inadvertently allowing the door to slam behind him. In a sense it hardly mattered, because he did not return, leaving his colleagues temporarily silent and nonplussed.

Having received Blair's letter on his return from Prague on the Sunday, Mandelson immediately wrote back a second letter. However "fascinating" his time in Prague had been, he had been "troubled and unhappy as you would expect". He felt wronged – by Blair as well as by Brown – but he was still "desperate to put things right". Nobody in Brown's circle had been able to suggest to him how he could repair relations between them.

The letter went on: "Sue [Nye, a Brown aide and friend of Mandelson's] describes it as a war of attrition and Michael [Wills, a Brown ally and later an MP] says Gordon is determined to kill me before I destroy him". Destroy him for what, to be replaced by whom? As long as I enjoy your confidence and patronage, why should I be bothered by what happens to him? Am I going to prosper from the rise of Robin Cook? It's simply ridiculous. All that is happening is, as a result of the situation with Gordon, I am losing your support, my career is being hampered, I am getting harmful publicity and I am creating further enemies for myself... Nobody, you included, I suspect, thinks Gordon is going to change and therefore, as the number two, I have to go. You are too nice and too considerate towards me to say this. I know so I had better say it for you. You have to do whatever you think is right for the party to win and, in everything you decide."

The letter concluded: "I shall make it as easy for you as I possibly can".

Wills, who has continued to be close to Brown while remaining on good terms with Mandelson, had indeed taken that view of the Brown-Mandelson relationship at the time. He suggested to one friend in the period before the election that the two politicians were "like scorpions in a bottle; only one of them will crawl out alive".

Of all the flare-ups that occurred between John Smith's death in May 1994 and the general election three years later, this was the one which came closest to fracturing the leadership cadre at the top of New Labour. But once again Blair used all his skill and forbearance to solve the problem. As Mandelson and Benjamin Wieg-Prosser (his quiet spoken, bespectacled 21-year-old researcher) sat gloomily down to dinner at their friend Roger Liddle's house in Kennington, Mandelson's mobile telephone rang. It was the leader of the Labour Party, reinforcing the message of the letter that Mandelson had received earlier in the day. At the dinner table the crisis was almost the sole topic of conversation. The collective view was that "Peter would have to keep agreeing with Gordon; that was what Tony wanted him to do".

If this could be made to work, the crisis would pass.

A frustrated Blair would repeatedly ask, sometimes several times a day:
"Why can't my two best people get on with each other?"



was still essentially a tax-raising party, as well as alienating potential business supporters. The argument was nevertheless a finely balanced one. A new top rate would have symbolically undermined, as perhaps no other policy did, Labour's claim to be the party of "the many and not the few". It would have made it easy to pay for the agreed goal of a new 10p starting rate to help those on the lowest incomes. And it would have gone some way to hunting the edge of the liberal left's unease about whether Labour was abandoning its redistributive principles.

These were important issues, some of which went to the heart of how far Labour was prepared, as Brown wanted, to promote a redistributive future. Moreover, much of Brown's irritation that Mandelson might be influencing tax policy was hardly irrational. He was, after all,

so little did the crisis have to do with policy that, three years later, nobody could remember what the row was about – though the issue was almost certainly child benefit. Feeling slighted yet again by Brown, and then even more so by Blair's backing for Brown – which Mandelson believed owed more to Brown's seniority than to the strength of his argument – Mandelson, by his own subsequent account, "went nuclear, lost all grace". What happened next became a matter of dispute. There were at least half a dozen people in the meeting: Jonathan Powell, as usual, sitting behind the desk taking notes, and the others, including Blair, ranged on sofas and chairs round the leader's office. Those in the room thought that Mandelson had stormed out, slamming the door behind him. He was later adamant

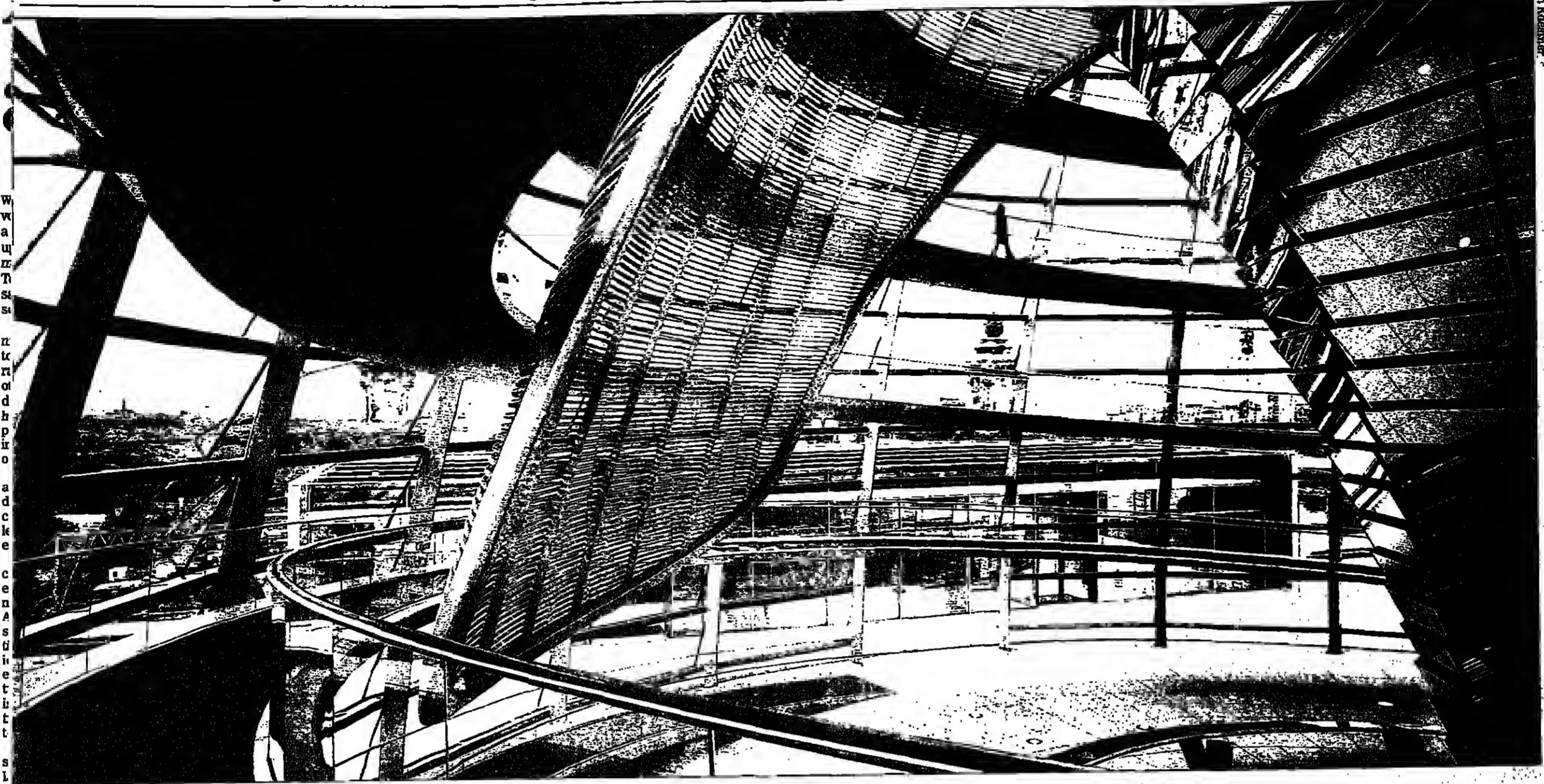
that he had actually been bleeped by someone at Millbank, and had gone out to return the call, inadvertently allowing the door to slam behind him. In a sense it hardly mattered, because he did not return, leaving his colleagues temporarily silent and nonplussed.

Dear Tony,
I am very sorry that your meet-

ere does

the

Sir Norman Foster's glass-domed Reichstag creates a parliamentary building which illuminates its past. By Nonie Niesewand



Norman's Berlin conquest

The big glass lantern on top of the Reichstag sparkles with mirrored glass by day and is strobed by light at night, a sign that Berlin is once again the capital of a unified Germany. The public can even go inside this lighthouse to get the most spectacular panoramic views of the city from the double-helix ramps that spiral around its 40-metre diameter.

But the Reichstag renovation, by British architect Sir Norman Foster, is more than a magnificent cupola on top of an ungainly pile of stone built in 1894. Foster has boldly cut out the heart of the building from top to ground floor; to let the light beam down deep into the plenary chamber at its core. This surgery not only excises a lot of the past, it also allows the workings of the Bundestag to be transparently visible. Wherever you are in the building, you can look down into the debating chamber above the MPs is the sky. So keen was Foster to express the new age of enlightenment that he inverted a cone of mirrored glass below this lantern to diffuse and refract natural light deep into the cavernous building.

Foster explained the complicated geometry he used for the Duxford air museum is "a doughnut". At the Reichstag, a bagel might be a more apt word to describe his plan. Imagine a bagel sliced into three loops for administrative offices and press offices. Then put a cloche on top of the hole in the middle and stand the whole thing on the saucer-like debating chamber, and you can see how he has opened out an inward-looking building from another century. Below that debating chamber in the basement is a power station which runs on rapeseed oil - which gives some idea of the cavernous size of the Reichstag. The thermal station will power not only the Reichstag but the ministries and residences, designed by Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank, which are being developed on an east-west axis behind it.

So much for a 19th-century imperialistic building facing up to the needs of a reunified Germany in the 21st century. But how to deal with the legacy of the 20th century? This is what troubles architects and art historians in the building site that is modern Berlin. All that remains of the Wall that divided East from West until 1989 are zigzagging red lines to show where it once stood, painted on the tarmac of the new roads and intersected by yellow traffic markings. The once wide open spaces of No Man's Land and Potsdamer Platz now support buildings by an international, star-studded cast - IM Pei, Frank Gehry, Philip Johnson, Arata Isozaki, Jean Nouvel, Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers, Aldo Rossi - all jostling for attention beside the historic buildings from the days of the kaisers.

Without turning Berlin into one big memorial site, history has to be respected and replayed alongside all the reinvention. There have been tremendous rows over the best way to do this. Simply removing all trace of the Nazi past is not a solution. In Berlin today there is no policy on how to preserve the past. Hitler's bunker, for example, is unmarked, although you can take the "Infamous Third Reich" tour, offered by one enterprising city company, Original Walking Tours. Sometimes history is told through archival photographs on the hoardings as the building or landscape gets a new role. All along Linden Lusgarten, which is being landscaped in a formal 18th-century manner, sepia photographs show



The new-look Reichstag is floodlit at night, above. The interior of the cupola (left) is dominated by the inverted cone of mirrors, surrounded by a double-helix ramp

a parliament for the Reich, but it took 15 years for Walot's design to get off the drawing board and on to the site of a razed palace near the Brandenburg Gate. When Kaiser Wilhelm II laid the last stone 10 years later, the project had swallowed 26m marks. This time round, the Bundestag insisted that the project would take no more than four years, and come in on time and on budget, for DM600m (£210m), making the annual contribution by each citizen of Germany just DM2, or less than £1 each.

Until 1954, it wasn't certain whether the Reichstag should be reconstructed or pulled down, but that year reconstruction started. Since Berlin was no longer the capital, and the parliament had moved to Bonn, the building was used to house the German Historical Institute.

Foster was a joint winner with two others in a competition in 1991 to convert the Reichstag back into a parliament. His original design was not used, and instead Foster was asked to modernise an imperialistic building and take on board all its cultural and emotional baggage. Foster, who is inordinately proud of the project, calls it "a labour of love".

On a tour of his new building, Foster leads the press in his slippstream along the double-helix ramp. Determinedly fit as a marathon runner, he never lets up. And to mark his achievement, Foster will receive the prestigious Pritzker prize for architecture at the Altes museum on 7 June, six days after his 64th birthday.

past Berliners' use of the gardens - including the time it was a rallying point for crowds massed under the Nazi swastika. Opposite, the old copper-clad Soviet block which was headquarters of the East German government and doubled as a bowling alley has been given a stay of execution and is having its asbestos paneling ripped out while everyone decides what to do with it. Where the Nazis burnt books in May 1933 in Bebelplatz there is a toughened glass panel inset deep into the square by the Israeli artist Micha Ullman, so that you look down into empty white bookshelves big enough to hold the 20,000 books burnt there.

Foster does not overlook the central role of the Reichstag in the history of Germany, which is why he leaves fragments from its past in place, such as the Russian graffiti from the Red Army occupation on 2 May 1945, when the Red flag flew above the Reichstag. Less obviously - but with more emotional impact - he has installed sculptures and paintings throughout the Reichstag that tell the narrative of 20th-century history. Positioned carefully, sometimes even poignantly, these artworks trigger a response that is sometimes joyful, sometimes spiritual. For many months Foster

worked with specially commissioned German, and Russian, French and American artists - chosen to represent the four Allied powers who administered the divided powers in the Cold War era.

German MPs who moved from Bonn for the first sitting today are going to get a few shocks. Such as the two bombs with a detonator on a table outside their cafe.

Tisch Aggregate by the late, great German avant-garde sculptor Joseph Beuys is just one of the artworks installed by Foster to make the experience of the space an unsettling one. He uses their artwork to tell the narrative of German history from its imperialist past (Reich means empire) to German reunification, with the Third Reich period provoking the most unsettling aspects of all.

In the MPs' lounge, *Memorial to the MPs killed in the War*, by Katharina Sieverding, consists of three books on three lecterns featuring photographs of the MPs taken out by Hitler when the Reichstag was set on fire in 1933. Today, politicians emerging from the underground link between residential blocks and ministries (still under construction behind the Reichstag) are confronted by a wall of bronze boxes housing relics of MPs who opposed Hitler

within the Reichstag in 1933. The boxes are welded together by artist Christian Boltanski and titled *Memorial to 500 Politicians*.

MPs are singled out for the hardest-hitting reminders. Public spaces, such as the courtyards that house gigantic stone doormats by Ulrich Ruckheim, or the big lobby that faces the road, are lit at night so that you can see the pair of Georg Baselitz shocking-pink paintings on either side of the room, which themselves are intriguing rather than unsettling. In the north entrance, American artist Jenny Holzer's four-sided column of red ticker-tape plays phrases from historical speeches given in the Reichstag for 12 days without repeating itself. The soundtrack gives onlookers a turn when it jumps tape and slips. "Every time there is a round of applause on the archival recordings she lets the transcript jump and drop a little so that anyone travelling in the lift looking out through the glass on to the column would think the cables had been cut," says Foster, who installed the work with Holzer.

This use of art makes the Norman conquest of the Reichstag far more important than the addition of the dazzling glass dome - which is the only visible sign of change from the outside. He likes to call this cupola

a lantern because it beams light such long distances. The rays pass through an inverted cone-covered in mirrors to radiate and sparkle like an Art Deco mirror ball.

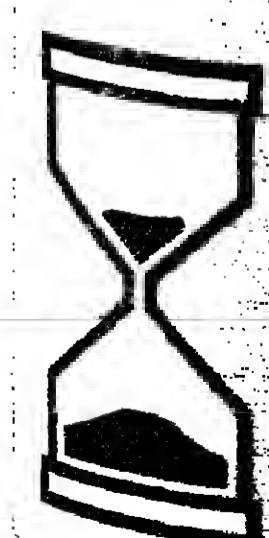
In working out his design, Foster built a one-twentieth sized model of the lantern and rigged it up on the roof. Then he went up in a bucket and worked out exactly how the light would fall - "Not just background light but to get a shaft of light right into the space". At 2am before the opening he was up on the roof lowering the levels and the intensity of the artificial light. For special occasions, Zenon lights will strobe the air.

A bore hole sunk 400 metres into the earth takes surplus heat and stores it, with the surrounding rock acting as an insulator to release it during winter. In summer, photo-voltaic cells on the roof capture the sun's heat to store it and power an electronic tracking device that shields the glass dome from the direct rays, preventing it from becoming too hot or too bright.

As important as revealing the workings of parliament was the cosmetic surgery needed for a democracy in the 21st century. The unloved and unloved Reichstag is a little over 100 years old, although it looks much older. It didn't wear well, either. Paul Walot won a competition in 1871 to build

LONDON PRIDE

Anyone wanting to understand buzzwords bandied about by architects and Government decision makers should watch "London Pride", BBC2, 21 April at 11.20pm. Rather than carve up the countryside for more housing, the words that sum up current thinking are "brownfield sites" and "urban regeneration".



THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 19 April 1999

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NETWORK



E-commerce: the dance and drugs culture has been embraced by young, affluent IT professionals

Craig Easton

The high techies

They are young, well-paid and, increasingly, turning to recreational drugs to cope with the pressures of their jobs as IT programmers, engineers and developers. By Samantha Downes

The violent death of Chris Dawes, multi-millionaire founder of software company Micromuse, grabbed the headlines last month. Dawes was killed when his £640,000 F1 McLaren crashed in rural Essex.

At the time, he was facing charges for possession of and intent to supply crack cocaine.

While Dawes' death may be an extreme example of the perils of being a hi-tech high flyer, there is a proliferation of recreational drug use in the IT industry.

Young IT professionals have eschewed the 1980s black suit for combat fatigues and trainers. The dance and drugs culture has been enthusiastically embraced by these affluent twenty-somethings who do not have time for long lunches or hanging out in wine bars.

The IT programmers and engineers *The Independent* met in London clubs saw their drug taking as an outlet which eases long hours and mops up some of their considerable salaries. Robert, a 23-year-old London-based web designer, believes he is a typical example of the recreational drug user.

He started taking speed while at university and has graduated to ecstasy and cocaine since starting his job two years ago. "That coke-snorting thing behind the wheel of a Ferrari is such a bloody cliché. It's not about being glamorous now, it's about relaxing and being sociable."

Jules, also 23, is a "boring nerd, but I do love my job". He works as a systems engineer at an investment bank and, like Robert, takes ecstasy,

but only at weekends. "We all work incredibly hard. Most of the time there are not enough hours for an after-work beer," he said.

"And although the work can be monotonous it is very well paid. So getting blasted is simply a fast route to relaxation."

Extra pressures such as the millennium bug have pushed IT professionals into fitting the archetypal recreational drug abuser profile,

according to Dr David Best, research co-ordinator at the National Addiction Centre and an honorary lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Dr Best believes that recreational drug abusers are attracted by the image of drug taking as much as the effect of the drugs themselves.

"Stimulant drugs like cocaine are appealing to young wealthy executives because they are associated with gregarious, sociable behaviour," he said. "They are more likely to be used by young up and coming professionals recreationally. These people have a high disposable income and their jobs are pressurised and demanding."

The IT industry's relative youth and its location in cities or large towns also make it prey to opportunistic pushers. Most weekend users admit that they do not have to go out hunting for drugs. "My boss supplies me with the drugs," one female programmer said.

There are geographical variations in drug availability. It is more likely in cities, but it will also depend on the network of the individuals involved and their external contacts,

Dr Best said: "Those who sell drugs are opportunistic and if they see a market they will sell to it."

Dr Best said small firms in newer industries are less likely to have the screening processes in place to discourage drug taking. American financial firms in the City have for several years implemented strict and expensive screening, but there appear to be few measures to prevent or dissuade some young IT employees from taking drugs.

Louise, a 20-year-old software developer from Hertfordshire, travels down to London each weekend to join her young, heavily salaried bosses for a binge. "I work in a young industry where things are changing all the time. I am highly stressed

"They need external stimuli and are those most likely to pursue drugs."

"My job is not creative, but that doesn't mean that I'm not creative," explained Louise. "When I'm on it feels like my mind has opened up - I don't care about anything."

According to the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, there have been more than 70 notified deaths of ecstasy users in the UK since 1992, but most of the users we spoke to felt the risks were infinitesimal. Those who took cocaine or speed were even less concerned, because these drugs are seen as more established and their effects as better documented.

But employers who turn a blind eye should note the side-effects identified by Dr Valerie Curran, reader in psychopharmacology at University College London. Her research has shown that a significant number of users are liable to bouts of depression. This manifests itself in what the Institute for Drug Dependence calls "presenteeism" - where people are at work but unable to perform their job to the best of their ability.

"We found regular users who were clinically depressed at some stage during the week," Dr Curran said. "Ecstasy makes your brain spill out huge levels of serotonin, the feel-good hormone, and the brain has to work really hard to get it back."

Dr Curran found that the average use of ecstasy and cocaine was every other week. But regular users need more to keep them at the same level of high.

"If you give four doses of ecstasy to a monkey it still has brain damage two years later," she said.

But Anne Marshall, director of Adafam, believes that weekend drug

users are well aware of the risks of their illicit habit. "When it comes to the health issues, people poo-poo all the information pushed at them. Those who use drugs at the weekend have the attitude: 'I work hard, I like to relax but don't have the time, so I need to take something to switch off immediately.'

"The problem might not be at a level that is important, but the effects can be long term: relationships with partners or friends may break down, which can be just as damaging."

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National Drugs Helpline
(0800 776600; Adafam National
(0171-928 8900)

Collaterally damaged



**JASON
CRANFORD-
TEAGUE**

Web designers and Net users are the innocent bystanders in the browser wars

ARE THE browser wars over? Or have they been over for the past six months or so, and we just haven't noticed? According to one (former) top Netscape developer, the answer is yes.

In what was at first thought to be an April Fool's joke, Jamie Zawinski resigned in disgust from the team working on Netscape's next-generation browser, code-named Mozilla (www.mozilla.org). But unfortunately, it was no joke.

The reaction of the online design community has been one of almost uniform gloom.

To many old timers in the industry, Zawinski, one of the original creators of the Netscape browser, was a hero. He was often described, by himself and others, as the "loose cannon" at Netscape: someone who shook things up but kept the company honest.

On the eve of the Mozilla project's first anniversary, Zawinski, in a publicly posted "resignation and postmortem" (www.jwz.org/grunge/nomo.html), stated that "Netscape [is] no longer capable of shipping products". Zawinski pulled no punches in his letter but also admitted personal culpability in what he felt was the failure of not only the company he had been the 20th member to join, but also of its new master, AOL.

In a follow-up to his letter of resignation (www.jwz.org/grunge/aol.html), Zawinski further outlines his problems with the AOL acquisition of Netscape, and details why he feels that AOL will be unable to maintain the level of innovation that made Netscape great.

While the Mozilla project will go on without Zawinski, his resignation casts a shadow over the future viability of the golden child of Internet software, and sends a chill down the spine of anyone concerned with the future development of standards-based browsers.

The next-generation web browsers, often referred to as the 5.0 browsers, were supposed to fix all of the problems that web designers and web users were constantly complaining about. Both Microsoft and Netscape committed early on in the development cycles of these products to adhere strictly to the standards being set by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), standards which both companies had more than a little influence in shaping. It was hoped that this would usher in another golden age of web development, where "code once, view anywhere" was again the web's motto. But both companies have come up short on these promises.

Although Netscape 5.0's future is in grave doubt, it is still far from dead. Just before Zawinski's departure, the Mozilla.org group had finally released working code, although it is still extremely beta. At the core of all browsers is the rendering engine, which allows the browser to display HTML pages. Code-named "Gecko", the new rendering engine includes support for all of the features and standards that web designers have been screaming for, including Cascading Style Sheets, the Document Object Model, XML/XSL and HTML 4.0.

Better still, Gecko is much smaller than previous rendering engines. Remember the hours it took to download Navigator 4 and IE 4? Well, Gecko can fit on a single floppy disk. While the Gecko rendering engine is still far too buggy to be released to the public, its beta version shows an amazing leap forward in web technology.

Then we have the recently released IE 5.0. While standards were promised, it appears Microsoft, sensing the turn of the AOL chief competitor, decided to write its own standards (www.webstandards.org/ie5.txt). This is especially apparent in the Document Object Model and CSS implementations, which have numerous holes in their adaptation of the W3C standards, as pointed out in Netscape's Standards Challenge page to come, netscape.com/browsers/future/standards.html. On top of this, IE 5.0 comes in at a whopping 17.2Mb for typical download, and the Mac version is still nowhere to be seen.

So where exactly does this leave us? On the one hand, we have what Steve Jobs might call an "insanely great" web browser that might never be released, and on the other hand, we have bloatware that has been "integrated" into the most popular PC operating system in the world.

There is some good news for Navigator users. Last week, NeoPlanet, which creates custom browsers based on IE, previewed a new browser based on Gecko, called NeoPlanet v. 5 (www.neoplanet.com/research.htm). It is set to be released next month, well in advance of Navigator 5's beta release in July.

However, it's a fact of life on the web that the vast majority of users will never upgrade their browser. The one that will win the browser wars will be the one that's on the most computers, whether or not it is the better browser.

It seems that web designers and web users are the innocent bystanders in the browser wars. We are the ones who suffer when browsers don't ship or don't comply to standards.

I hope that Jamie Zawinski is wrong, and that Netscape can once again release a browser that is worth using. Otherwise, there is little doubt that we will soon be living in a Microsoft World (Wide Web).

E-mail your comments or queries to jason@webbedenvironments.com

A battle for the sonic boom

IBM and Microsoft have squared up for a fight over who will set the standard for delivering digital music via the Internet. By Andy Oldfield

A SERIES OF deals and technology announcements last week marked the latest round in the battle to establish a digital music standard and the basis of a multi-million dollar market for downloading music on the Net.

For many who routinely download music or post their music for downloading, such a standard already exists. A community has grown up around the Motion Picture Experts Group-1 audio layer three (MP3) format that allows digital music to be compressed in to files that are near CD quality and easily transmitted over the Net.

The problem, at least for the recording industry, is that the *de facto* standard format is largely unregulated and its ease of use makes piracy on a grand scale more than possible. Last year

the Recording Industry Association of America moved to make sure it was not left behind in a market potentially worth \$40bn a year by announcing the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) - an alliance of hi-tech companies charged to come up with MP3 alternatives that protect intellectual property rights, enable tracking for artist payments and thwart piracy.

Unfortunately for the industry, SDMI is making slow progress. Last week version 0.1 was being finalised. Leonardo Chiariglione, the executive director of SDMI, admitted "at the moment we have nothing". Everything is at stake, however. Digital distribution is unstoppable and will cover video and multimedia as well as music. With so much to play for, all sorts of companies

are trying to create or back a winner. Media, technology and communications companies are keeping their fingers in the pie and forming strategic alliances.

While SDMI is not yet out of the starting blocks, others are forging ahead. A newer, faster version of the proprietary a2b download system from Liquid Audio and AT&T was announced last week. But that announcement was eclipsed when IBM and RealNetworks said that they would be working together to create their own universal standards for sending music over the Net.

IBM has developed an Electronic Music Management System (EMMS) which uses encryption and digital watermarking to combat piracy. Several record companies

including BMG, EMI, Sony, Universal and Warner - have backed EMMS. A pilot of the system is scheduled to be launched in California in June.

RealNetworks, the market leaders in audio streaming technology with more than 55 million users of its RealAudio software, says it is abandoning work on its own standards in favour of developing a plug-in for IBM's technology to work with its existing products. "IBM are driving what the industry wants to see as far as security and setting up a rights-clearing house," Maria Cantwell, a RealNetworks senior vice-president, said.

The aim is to have software ready by the third quarter in time for a Christmas rush. "We want to be aggressive about

this," Ms Cantwell said. Further proof of RealNetworks' aggression emerged later in the week with a \$75m deal to buy Xing, the leading developer and provider of MP3 software.

In a separate announcement, IBM and Sony said they would collaborate to incorporate Sony's copy-protection technology into EMMS. These announcements stole Microsoft's thunder, which unveiled MS Audio 4 last week. Microsoft's new format competes directly with MP3 and is seen as a potential MP3 killer because it offers even better sound and file sizes and download times cut by about half. Microsoft is positioning it as a viable alternative to MP3 because it has some anti-piracy measures built in. Moreover, the Windows Media Player which will be used to play

downloaded MS Audio 4 files will also handle MP3 files.

With Windows' marketing leverage and MP3 support built in, MS Audio 4 is likely to appeal to consumers. A deal was struck with Excite for the technology to be used for streaming on its community pages. The recording industry may not be so easily won over, though.

At the launch last week, record label praise for Microsoft came mainly from the smaller companies. Microsoft could have alienated the bigger companies by saying that SDMI is a non-starter - something the MP3 camp has always emphasised.

Another player in the market will set it stall out this week when Apple demonstrates a new version of QuickTime at the National Association of

Broadcasters show in Las Vegas. QuickTime is the basis for

MPEG-4, the next generation multi-platform audio/video standard for the Web. MP3 compatibility is built in, which means that support for the MP3 format will be available through standard operating systems/browser functionality on non-Windows platforms, too.

The champions and users of MP3 will be pleased that, while the main corporate players battle for the supremacy of a single standard, MP3 is still proliferating and getting easier to use. With momentum on MP3's side, the industry's quest gets harder the longer the battle continues and the more it seeks to incorporate MP3. Those MP3 files on your hard drive are going to be safe for a long while yet.

All in the genes

IN THE near future, people will wear specs with clear glass because it is the fashion, and my mild problem of not being able to read without specs will be very old-fashioned. Genetic engineering could put my eyes back the way they were, and I wouldn't need specs at all.

My failing eyesight is the one really frustrating thing about getting older. My half-spes can ease this problem; the lens are made for close objects, so I can now glance up from the lens and avoid blurred vision when looking in the distance. But I must contend with a deep-seated psychological fear that they make me look like Jeffrey Archer. I can't go shopping without my specs, or look at a map. And it is really frustrating that I can't chat to my children, but not see the banknotes I am counting out for them (I always fetch my specs, rather than find myself handing out £20 notes.)

Genetic engineering will be the great revolution of the near future. And we shall find it irresistible. First, it will be used in relation to illnesses such as haemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and any illnesses that can kill children. Add to that list problems that cause great distress later in life, such as Alzheimer's disease.

A question worth asking these days is whether we shall be able to correct genetic effects of ageing. Will doctors be able to scrape my cheek, tidy it up, or flood my system with a gene that will improve my eyesight. Very intriguing. It's not a Franken-



Edwina Currie: "genetic engineering will be the great technological revolution of the near future"

stein scenario. Fear comes from the unknown, and I imagine that genetic engineering will be the same as most developments - once it becomes familiar the general attitude will shift towards acceptance. Newspaper headlines will be about marvellous transformations of children made healthy via genetic treatment.

It is always worth remembering, - and especially with a provocative subject such as this - that one person's monstrosity is another person's miracle. Where I am totally convinced that we need to watch the development of this science is the areas of supervision and control. There are quite good controls for plant engineering, and also for people, but it is not taken far enough

yet. For instance, embryology can be carried out up to 14 days after conception. Fine. But the kind of research they are doing during that time is what really needs to be examined. Look at what has happened in the animal field. When Dolly the sheep was cloned, it was a great surprise. Why? No one knew that this work was under way. It makes your hair stand on end to think that the original research was funded by the Milk Marketing Board. Why? They were looking for a better cow.

In my most recent book, *The Ambassadors*, a few Marilyn Monroes are cloned via her gall bladder. It's meant to raise all sorts of questions: identity, identification, the law and so on. I ask, but the novel won't

give answers - although I am sure we shall have to find answers soon. I found it quite alarming that there is very little literature on the subject. Of course, the sci-fi people have tackled these issues for years, but in terms of mainstream work, the only work that stands out are Fay Weldon's *The Cloning of Joanna May*, and a rather lovely book by Danielle Steele called *Klone and I*, about a successful businessman who clones himself to keep his girlfriend happy when he is not there. Unfortunately for the businessman, the clone is more interesting, and she falls in love with it, which points out that no one is ever identical.

I was struck by how these stories were all based on the idea of a mega-

lomaniac individual, with the science used for their own, selfish purpose. No, I thought, that isn't how it is going to happen. It will be on a much broader scale. It is like vaccination. When I was a Health Minister, I was encouraging everybody to vaccinate their children. It wasn't compulsory, but it was in the public interest. Similarly, this is how it shall be with genetic engineering - if you want to use it, that's OK, and if you don't, that's also OK. But if you come from a family where there is a problem - and most of us do - then you will be encouraged to use genetic engineering. And it will be available on the NHS. Just watch.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

THE EXODUS of senior executives from Netscape Communications following its takeover by AOL looks set to continue. Earlier this month two key developers, Jamie Zawinski and John Giannandrea, became "Netscapers". They were joined 10 days ago by Peter Harter, Netscape's global public policy legal adviser.

Last week news broke that senior vice-president Mike Horner, responsible for the Netcenter portal, is taking a sabbatical in the summer. News.com reported inside sources at the company as saying he will not return. Jennifer Bailey, the company's senior vice-president of business development, who has worked elsewhere with Horner, is also said to be planning to leave in the summer. Netscape general counsel, Roberta Katz, and chief administrative officer, Peter Currie, are also expected to resign later this year.

A website at <http://www.ex-mozilla.org/> lists numerous former Netscape employees, many of whom have left since the company was bought by AOL.

tent to the web, but making those stories interactive and adding interpretation and historical perspectives to the news reporting in their print versions. He said that, although faced with a profit squeeze, newspapers will have to spend. "You cannot save your way out of a business crisis. You can only invest your way out of it."

THE FOUNDERS of 3Com last week followed Bill Gates' gift of \$20m to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a new computer lab by giving £2m to establish a chair at the Laboratory for Computer Science. The chair, inaugurated in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 3Com, is for researchers rather than existing MIT professors. The first holder will be Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and director of the World Wide Web Consortium.

FOLLOWING THE departure of chief executive Gordon Eubanks, Symantec last week appointed John Thompson as president and chief executive. Thompson, prior to taking up the appointment, was general manager of IBM Americas and said to be on the short list of potential heirs apparent to the IBM chairman, Louis Gerstner.

Thompson said that after 28 years at IBM the only reason he would join another company was to run it. He said that he intended to push Symantec to develop security software and virus protection for a world that is becoming more connected. In the not-too-distant future, he said, "almost everything will be connected in some way."

ANDY GROVE, Intel's chairman, told editors and publishers at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention in San Francisco last week that the web will cause their businesses the same sort of upheaval that Intel faced in the 1960s.

"You are where Intel was three years before the roof fell in on us," he said, adding that newspapers will have to reinvent themselves as the web takes over the delivery of breaking news in real time.

According to Grove, newspapers will have to play to their strengths, not just moving con-

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

Newmaps

www.newmaps.com

Can news be presented on the Net as anything other than a boring series of links? As surfers drown in a surfeit of information, this site maps the density of the incoming data in geographical terms.

The result is a sort of aerial reconnaissance view of what's happening. Individual news items are shown as dots on the landscape, while larger masses of information pile up to form peaks.

Distance on the map becomes a measure of overlapping relevance, and flags may even be planted as bookmarks. Potentially, this is a revealing guide to the topology of news coverage on any given day, though it tends to be a slow Java-load and,

ultimately, it all leads back to Associated Press, ABC News, the Washington Post, Yahoo! and the rest. The service is really a promotion for "content analysis software" called Themescape, and perhaps better suited for previewing content trends across thousands of documents.

Nunavut.com

www.nunavut.com/home.html

The map of Canada changed irrevocably at the start of this month. Some 1.9 million square kilometres of the Canadian Arctic became Nunavut, a largely self-governing expanse of ice and tundra extending as far as Greenland. This site is the information gateway to the new territory, and includes an optional Inuktitut font as well as details of the newly designed coat of arms - an imposing blue and gold number featuring caribou and narwhal, the ensemble topped

by a crowned iglu. The 1 April celebrations, with their fireworks and speeches, are recorded as "a loud, proud wonderful day", and there are pages for tourism, health, hunting and fishing, as well as discussion forums. The online newspaper, *Nunatsiaq News*, offers insights into a community struggling to deal with serious problems, though these sometimes have less serious aspects, such as an "unlicensed speak-easy on the West 40 Road". Meanwhile, Okie Kunuk is Igaliut's Honorary Toonik this year - but the downloadable TV listings reveal, unsurprisingly, that Nunavut has the same TV as everywhere else in the world.

Channel Five

www.channel5.co.uk

Navigation here is by page-zapping via a TV-style remote control. This state-of-the-art creation is not the porn site which recent output may have led some to expect, though it does include a *fulsome* tribute to Melinda Messenger, complete with Babelicious Photofest and downloadable Virtual Mel. "Download this pint-sized PC playmate and you'll never be lonely again." There's a seriously useful programme guide to all broadcast cable and satellite channels, background to the station's own output and a range of web-specific features such as *Drizzle Beach*, an "e-soap" sending up the Channel 5 soap *Sunset Beach*.

Send interesting, quirky or cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

Women get wired

They're gaining on men when it comes to using the Net, giving rise to a new kind of girl power. By Morag Preston

WOMEN HAVE suddenly become one of the most sought-after audiences on the Internet, and even Bill Gates is taking notice.

According to Moss, women use the Net in an entirely different way from their male counterparts who came to it much earlier. She says they are more interested in what technology can achieve than how it works.

"Women are a very attractive demographic," says Michael Goff, director of programming for MSN. "A lot of advertisers want to hit women who are making the buying decisions and, to some degree, consider the male eyeballs out there to be a waste for the products they're delivering."

Internet retailers have at last woken up to the fact that the future of e-commerce depends in part on its attraction to women. Professional women in the Nineties are earning and spending more than their predecessors. They are also working harder than ever before. The Internet should offer the convenience that today's women need when it comes to seeking advice and making financial decisions.

The efforts of the software companies have not gone unnoticed.

Five years ago, it was estimated that only 5 per cent of Internet users in the US were women. Today,

the figure is 44 per cent, up from 35 per cent in 1996. What is more, 55 per cent of next year's first-time Net users are expected to be women, according to Forrester Research.

In the UK, 15 per cent of the adult population is online and around 39 per cent of those are women up from 32 per cent in 1996, according to figures from NOP. Forrester predicts that women online will be level pegging with men by the millennium.

As the web becomes more mass market, women are no longer put off by the notion that the Net is the domain of male techno geeks: a complicated toy designed by and for nerdy males. A wave of sites, aimed specifically at women, has recently appeared, based on the idea that women prefer online content which they can put to use in their everyday lives. Packed full of practical information on everything from fashion to health care and parenting, these sites appeal to women because they are user-friendly.

Melissa Moss, president of the Women's Consumer Network (www.womensconsumer.net), launched her company after more than a year of market research. Created by women for women, it provides best-buy advice on everything from purchasing a car to investing in mutual funds. The site also offers discounts on everyday items such as tights and contraceptive pills. "We're doing for women what they would do for themselves if they had the time," Moss says. "We research darlings of the stock market. The stock of iVillage, the Internet company that operates the No1 women's site in the US, quadrupled on the day of its initial public offering. The site offers information on topics from parenting to retirement planning, and, at any one time, there are some 1,400 ongoing discussion boards. It attempts to create a sense of belonging, a community feeling, by bringing together groups of like-minded women who share experiences or help each other to solve problems.

Of those who have come online in the last 12 months, around 45 per cent have been women, according to NOP. They are part of a new wave of Net users, a generation and several orbits away from the techies who adopted the Net as their own at its inception. Among six to 16-year-olds online, 45 per cent are girls, according to NOP. Although the statistic might be influenced by the fact that younger users are often made to go online at school, it does suggest that women are gaining access to technology at a much younger age. "There's a whole new breed of young women who are technologically unafraid and who see technology as gender neutral," Moss says.

'Men use the Net in the same way that they use the TV remote control... whereas women use it as a tool to get things done'

As well as keeping a tight rein on the family purse strings, women, traditionally, are the researchers in the home. "They're the ones who find out where to go on holiday or make inquiries into which are the best schools in their area," says Judy Gibbons, director of MSN for Northern Europe, who stresses how much the Internet has helped women with their field work. "Now, rather than leafing through a magazine or visiting the local library, they're going online."

E-mail has also proved to be an attraction for women. Women write more personal letters and send more cards than men. They also tend to spend more time on the phone. For them, the Net is a support group offering advice on everything from how to cook to bow to end a relationship.

Not coincidentally, Internet companies run by and for women are the darlings of the stock market. The stock of iVillage, the Internet company that operates the No1 women's site in the US, quadrupled on the day of its initial public offering.

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NEW FILMS

ACTRESSES (15, 88 mins)

Director: Ventura Pons
Starring: Rosa María Sardá, Nuria Espert
Cub Spanish director Pons rustles up a goggly-eyed bit of cinematic navel-gazing in this ode to the acting lark. Shot back in 1997 before last year's art-house hit *Carrossel*, *Actresses* details the earnest research of Merce Pons's aspiring thespian - interviewing three diverse old hands (Rosa María Sardá, Nuria Espert, Anna Lizaran) about their life and times in the greaspaint trade. Part acting masterclass, part loquacious reminiscence, *Actresses* slowly stews in an ambience of oppressive theatricality. Its performers talk as if they're being paid by the word. *Repertory: ICA Cinema*

HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)

Director: Todd Solondz
Starring: Dylan Baker, Philip Seymour Hoffman
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)

Director: Oliver Parker
Starring: Cate Blanchett, Minnie Driver
Shifted-shirt politico Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) is being held to ransom by Julianne Moore's brittle blackmailer. Wife Cate Blanchett looks on in horror while louchie Rupert Everett and effervescent Minnie Driver provide the comic relief. And so it goes. Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but oddly mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's still-pertinent satire of middle-class hypocrisies - the friction between the public and private sphere. The sharp dialogue is rather blurred by the snappy editing and sumptuous design, but bright playing from a starry cast helps to paper over the cracks.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 117 mins)

AMERICAN HISTORY X is a liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, which nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoid thriller stars Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins.
West End: Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine.
West End: Curzon Minimo, Renoir

BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS (15, 96 mins)

The latest offering from the *This Life* school of British film-making sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Rd. Repertory: The Pallman Everyman

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111 mins)

Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire starring Brendan Fraser.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15, 110 mins)

Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt through the badlands of Serbia for the boy's missing father.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Ritzy Cinema

A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Metro, Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, Watermans Arts Centre

HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG, 114 mins)

Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy about fascist Italy and the death camps.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

MIGHTY JOE (PG, 114 mins)

This children's comedy is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

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THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

WALKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

This rattle-bag of a black comedy is just too arr-brusht for its own good.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road and local cinemas

PROMETHEUS (15, 130 mins)

Director: Tony Harrison
Starring: Michael Fassbender, Walter Sparrow
Toyrin Harrison's dense and literate film-poem kicks off with a visit from Hermes (Michael Fassbender) to a depressed mining town in Yorkshire, before meandering off through the smokystock landscapes of polluted Eastern Europe. Harrison's rigorous, locomotive verse stokes an awkward and overelated narrative (updating Aeschylus's *Prometheus Bound*) into life, but it's still too long, too ill-paced, too heavy handed in its eco-conscious message. Two hours in, and those rhyming couples start to grate a bit.
West End: Notting Hill Cinema

RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 109 mins)

Director: Joseph Ruben
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Joaquin Phoenix, David Conrad
Eden takes on a definite whiff of sulphur in the course of Joseph Ruben's fact-based saga, as two strutting graduate travellers (Vince Vaughn and David Conrad) are impelled to return to the scene of their former crimes when an erstwhile buddy (Joaquin Phoenix) is busted for drug possession in Malaysia. A classic morality play in the "what would you do?" mould, *Return to Paradise* still conspires to bungle its ready-made drama. Opening out as a taut marriage of *Midnight Express* and *The Beach*, its inherent tension seeps away throughout a pedestrian second half. A love angle between Vaughn and Anne Heche's earnest defence lawyer looks tacked on as an afterthought.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

XAN BROOKS

Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road and local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation (right) on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Happiness (18)

Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a comedy of foibles and sexual deviance that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

God (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Denee, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London)

The artfully fractured form of Moles Kaufman's impelling play (right), about Oscar Wilde, manages to present the writer in all his complex contradictions. Booking to 5 Jun.

Forbidden Broadway (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)

Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Sondheim to *The Love Affair* via Elaine Paige. To 16 May.

Vulpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any zinier or more astute than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egomani. To 9 Oct.

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)

In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania is sex-on-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Biz's revelatory retrospective for the wild bero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun.

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power, women as exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr.

Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)

Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheery exploration of creativity in art, design and life: an asson meat of rough drafts, doodles, try-outs and models. To 30 May.

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs (1994-98 right): huge, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - street-exchange, floor, cityscape, hotel foyer, Vista of more than the eye can see. To 16 May.

Antony Gormley's Field' (firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)

One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obdurate, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 23 May.

TOM LUBBOCK

PURLEY

ABC (0970-002 0407) BR: Purley The Faculty 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6pm Returns to Paradise 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 4.45pm, 6.05pm, 6.30pm Shakespeare in Love 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8pm Returns to Paradise 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 8.45pm Walking Ned 4.45pm, 6.05pm, 6.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE (CORONET) (0171-703 1969) BR: Elephant & Castle American History 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and MacLeane 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Walking Ned 5.05pm, 7.45pm

RICHMOND (0870-005 0070) BR: Richmond The Faculty 2.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm Returns to Paradise 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm The Faculty 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Walking Ned 5.05pm, 7.45pm

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RICHMOND STUDIO (0870-050007) BR: Richmond Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4pm Plunkett and MacLeane 7.30pm, 9.30pm Returns to Paradise 2.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm The Faculty 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Walking Ned 5.05pm, 7.45pm

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RICHMOND STUDIO (0870-050007) BR: Richmond Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4pm Plunkett and MacLeane 7.30pm, 9.30pm Returns to Paradise 2.

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (020-892 0424) © Walthamstow Conf.
The Faculty 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm
Walking Ned 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pmWALTON
THE SCREEN (01933-252929) BR: Welsh
Conf. on *Throne A Child* Action 8.30pm
Walking Ned 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm
Shakespeare in Love 3pm Tea with
Mussolini 6pmWELL HALL
CORONET (0161-350 3351) BR: Ethan
American History X 3.20pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Castle 6.30pm *The Nutcracker*
Movie 4pm, 6pmWILLESDEN
SELL-VUE (0181-630 0222) © Willesden
Green & Civil Action 9pm *The Nutcracker*
Movie 5pm, 7pmWIMBLEDON
ODEON (0870-050070) BR: Wimbled
The Faculty 1.45pm, 4pm, 8.25pm,
8.45pm *An Ideal Husband* 4pm, 8pm,
8.20pm, 8.45pm *Young Victoria* 4pm,
8pm *Plunkett and MacLean* 1.45pm,
6.45pm *The Nutcracker* 12.20pm,
2.10pm, 3.55pm *Shakespeare in Love*
5.45pm, 8.25pm Walking Ned 2.30pm,
4.35pm, 5.45pm, 8.55pmWOODFORD
ABC (0161-369 3461) © South Woodford
A Civil Action 1.45pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.40pm *Plunkett*
and MacLean 3.8pm Walking Ned
6pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 8.40pmWOOLWICH
CORONET (0161-350 3643) BR: *Woolwich*
A Civil Action 3pm, 5.45pm, 8pm
Elizabeth 6pm, 8pm, 8.45pm
Walking Ned 3.30pm

REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place, SW7
(0171-838 2144) *L'Appart* (INC) 8.30pm
ICA The Mail, SW1 (0171-930 3647) *Ac-
tresses* (12) 5pm, 7pm, 8pm *Asbes-
tosis* (15) 3.30pm, 6pmLIFFE: NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-628
3222) *One Touch of Venus* (INC) 2pm
Eddy's Hollywood Screen Kiss (INC)
4pm *We're Funny That Way* (INC)
8.15pm *Two Young Girls in Love* (INC)
8pm *Shakespeare in Love* (INC) 8pm
Pass Me! 8.45pmPHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-
441 0729) *Gods and Monsters* (15)
4.45pm, 5.05pmPRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2
(0171-737 6161) *Private Practice* (12)
1.30pm *Perfume Durance* (10) 4pm
The Prince of Egypt (U) 6.45pm *Fear and
Loathing in Las Vegas* (18) 8pmTHE PULLMAN EVERMEN Holly Bush
Vale, NW3 (0845-206 2345) *Bedrooms* and
Hallways (15) 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pmRIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crop
Road, W6 (0171-201 0100) *Barbarella* (19)
8pm *Soul* (16) 7pm + *The Merchant of Four
Seasons* (18) 7pmBRIGHTON
DANCE DF YORK'S (01273-602503) *Conte d'Autunno* (18) 2pm
Gods and Monsters (15) 4.15pm, 8.45pm
Orpheus (16) 6.45pmBRISTOL
WATERSIDE (0117-925 3845) *Clans* (15)
6pm, 6.30pm *Fronten* (15) 6.10pm
Meet with a Movie Camera (INC) 8.30pmCAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-500044) *An Ide-
al Husband* (PG) 12.30pm, 7.15pm
Coriolanus (15) 2.45pm, 8.15pm
Gods and Monsters (15) 6pmCARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-
359966) *The Right Stuff* (15) 7.30pm
Central Station (15) 8pmCHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-
725550) Pleasantville (12) 1.45pm
Little Voice (19) 4.30pmCOVENTRY
WARRIOR ARTS CENTRE (01203-
523242) *This Year's Love* (18) 6.30pm
Bolton (18) 8pmNORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Pleasant-
ville (12) 5.30pm *Screen* (18) 8.15pmPLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
The Opposite of Sex (18) 6pmCOUNTRYWIDE
ABERYSTWYTH
COMMODORE (01970-619421) *The Thin
Red Line* (15)BASINGSTOKE
WARNER VILLAGE (0126-818726) *The
Rugrats Movie* (U) *Shakespeare in
Love* (15) *Madeline* (U) *Payback* (18)
Private Practice (15) *Sex and the City*
(15) *Private Ryan* (15) *A Civil Action* (12)
Blast from the Past (12) *The Faculty* (15)
Walking Ned (PG) *Payback* (18)
Private Eye (U) *Bliss from the Past*
(12) *Age Venture*, Pet Detective (12)BATH
ROBINS (051-802561) *Plunkett and
MacLean* (15) *The Faculty* (15) *Sex and
the City* (15) *Private Eye* (U) *Bliss from
the Past* (12) *The Faculty* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG)
Payback (18) *Private Eye* (U)BRIGHTON
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HANKS
TELEVISION REVIEW

"WHAT IS TRUTH?" said, lecturing Christianity's

Plates, and slipped off, abandoning his seat before anybody could give him the answer. Under the circumstances, this was probably a smart move. On the one hand, we had Gore Vidal, maintaining in his *Throne and Years* (Sun, 7.30), that the *Malvern Bragg millennium*, the pedagogical Christianity of the 1990s, was getting terribly bogged down in the question of whether the story of the resurrection was true or not. On the one hand, we had Gore Vidal maintaining in his *Malvern Bragg millennium*, the pedagogical Christianity of the 1990s, was getting terribly bogged down in the question of whether the story of the resurrection was true or not. On the one hand, we had Gore Vidal maintaining in his *Throne and Years* (Sun, 7.30), that the

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documentary on Christianity's first 100 years – decidedly less sexy, but still seductively self-assured, discussing the events of the New Testament as if it were an uncontroversially reliable historical source. Then, though we sailed out of the clear blue waters of narrative into the mucky pond of theological argument.

There were a couple of moments of brightness here, as when Vidal suggested that the Archangel Michael had "got a job to do" to prove it. "Has any chance with you tonight?" the Archbishop asked, "later on, perhaps?" Vidal replied that, possibly struck by the thought that this sounded like a pickup, added, "...we will pursue this, but mostly it was nice, frustrating adult with too many hares started and no conclusions reached – not even anything definite as an agreement to do.

For, you can see why throwing Christ back to the lions' scimitar is an attractive idea: I mean, at least you've written and a losing. The best two thousand years can't be bad respect, in some future edition, of Bragg giving George Steiner a good telling off, which is surely the same.

Civil War (Sun, 8.30) had Jerry Hall getting all angry and political about the English Civil War. News-style re-enactments of the main events gave the whole

thing an appealingly Blue Peter feel, but it was too rushed for understanding, and too long-winded for entertainment. Still, I liked Harry's attempt to make us learn something from his suddenly eccentric, dark and luxuriant glorified anguish. (Incredibly, I even enjoyed some form of mystical convergence.)

After that, we got a brief sense, aren't we all?"

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